

I.R. NEWSPAPER REGY.
RECEIVED 15 AUG 1868

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

THE RIGHT OF TRANSLATION AND REPRODUCING ILLUSTRATIONS IS RESERVED.

No. 700.—VOL. XIII.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1868.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY.

As the period for the general election approaches, it becomes more and more clear what question must, independently of all others, divide the candidates. It is the question which, in rather a remarkable manner, divides representatives and members of the Government; which makes the ultra-Conservative Lord Carnarvon take the Liberal side; which sets Lord Stanley against his colleagues; which, still more strangely, has seemingly estranged Sir Roundell Palmer from his political friends. Mr. Disraeli is as uncertain as a racehorse, and no one can say whether, at the last moment, he will run with the rest of his Cabinet or not; only it will not be from mere caprice, but from a desire to settle the Irish Church question, almost as the country at large would have it settled, rather than allow his opponents to go a step further, and settle it in exact accordance with the popular wish. If Mr. Disraeli should adopt this course of action, he will have precedents for it in his own conduct with regard to the Reform Bill, and in that of Sir Robert Peel in connection with the corn laws. In the meanwhile, the expectation of a surprise, or of what soldiers call "a change of front," deprives the political situation of a certain amount of interest. To the great mass of Liberal voters, however, it matters nothing

what Mr. Disraeli may resolve to do at the last moment, when he finds himself thoroughly beaten. Their object is not so much to turn Mr. Disraeli out of office as to destroy a great grievance in Ireland, and to render it possible for the Irish to become thoroughly loyal subjects, which, it must be admitted, few of them have been hitherto.

A meeting is to take place on Monday next at the Crystal Palace, at which the admirers and supporters of the Protestant Establishment in Catholic Ireland are expected to muster in great force. Whether any new light will then be thrown on the subject of discussion remains to be seen; but it will, at least, be curious to observe the composition of the assembly. There will, of course, be plenty of members of what we may call—though the thing is new in this country—the "parti-prêtre," which by no means interests every member of the Church of England, nor even every priest of that Church. Nevertheless, the men in possession have no wish to be ejected; and first and foremost among the supporters of the Irish Church Establishment are those who under that establishment hold good enjoyable livings. These men are not fanatics. They simply know when they are well off, and hate all change, because no change for them can be a change for the better. Next to the clergy of the

Irish Church in determination to maintain the existing state of things in Ireland, the clergy of the Church of England must be placed. They remember the Latin line which teaches that when your neighbour's house is on fire you had better look out for your own. The question with them is not whether the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland, as by law established, is or is not a gross injustice, a sign of conquest, a standing insult to the great majority of the Irish people, but whether if the Church of Ireland were disestablished the foundations of the Church of England might not at the same time be shaken. Then there must be a host of weakminded fanatics—the sort of people who buy and perhaps try to sing the idiotic song recently published under the unlyrical title of "Our dear old Church of England." Something like a million old ladies who think it safer to let things remain as they are; the great majority of the Conservative party who swear blindly by Church and State, in Ireland as in England; and a certain proportion of Scotch Presbyterians and English Dissenters, who, opposed as they may be to English Episcopacy, have a far greater hatred and horror of Roman Catholicism.

The Conservative organs say, with truth, that the opponents of the Irish Church Establishment are not animated



THE NEW "PEOPLE'S MARKET," KING'S-CROSS.

by any one principle, but that among them may be found men of the most varied opinions. We cannot see the force of the accusation; on the contrary, if, regarded from a number of different points of view, the Irish Church Establishment is equally found wanting, that would seem to prove that it is a thoroughly defective institution. Lord Carnarvon, as a staunch Conservative, condemns it; so does Lord Stanley, as a Liberal Conservative; so do most Liberal members of the Church of England, nearly all Dissenters, and also, no doubt, those who are neither for the Church of England nor for any church. On the other hand, the supporters of the Church Establishment in Ireland do really form something like a compact body, consisting, for the most part, of the clergy of the Irish and English Churches (the two form but one), and the very great majority—almost the totality—of the Conservative party; to whom may be added the very timid people, who are always on the side of existing things, and a certain number of Protestant zealots. In short, the Church and State party is composed of those who wish to keep things as they are—the just with the unjust—and of the poor fanatics who have been taught to believe that if the supremacy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ireland were done away with, that unhappy island would at once fall under the dominion of the Scarlet Lady, surrounded by a court of Cardinals (also in scarlet).

One very remarkable thing in connection with the question of the Irish Church is that the Conservatives, who habitually reproach their opponents with basing their political schemes not on observed facts, but on mere theories, have, in this particular case, all the facts against them, while their only argument, as to the dangers that will (that is to say, which may) ensue from the disestablishment of the Irish Church, is purely a hypothetical one. We say that the facts are against the Conservative party, because the experiment of placing Roman Catholic citizens or subjects on a precise equality with citizens or subjects of other denominations has been tried and found successful in America (both in the United States and in Canada), in the Australian colonies, and in Protestant Prussia, whereas in Ireland the experiment of keeping Catholics in an inferior position to Protestants has also been tried, and found strikingly unsuccessful. No one who pays the least attention to facts can think of comparing the position of the Irish under the English to that of the Poles under the Russian Government. There is a certain distant resemblance, however, between the two positions; and it is instructive to observe, as a mere fact, that, where the Catholics are kept in an inferior position to their fellow-subjects of the Greek or of the Protestant Church, their loyalty is not to be counted upon, while, where they are allowed to live on a perfect equality with their fellow-subjects of all other creeds, they are equally loyal with them.

KING'S-CROSS MARKET.

AN important experiment is now being tried at King's-cross. A new market was opened there, on the 8th inst., for fish, meat, poultry, provisions, fruit, and vegetables; and the large and small shops of the district will in future be exposed to the competition of dealers who are in direct communication with the great sources of London's supply. Nothing can be plainer or more practical than the scheme of the new market. "A saving of two shillings per ton in railway carriage and free return of empties; a saving of three or four hours in time, and an avoidance of injury and knocking about in transit," are among the inducements put forth by its proprietors. But the situation of the new market and the wants of the neighbourhood speak for themselves. Between the railway station at present being built for the Midland Company and that of the Great Northern, and in the centre of one of the most densely-populated neighbourhoods in London, King's-cross Market is sure of a ready sale of all necessities which can be procured there better and cheaper than outside. Nothing can be simpler than the architecture of the new building, nothing plainer or more practical than its fitting up into shops and stalls. A large manufactory or workman's shop seems to have been enlarged and modified, and a façade and frontage given to it like those of a riding-school or mews. It is absolutely destitute of decoration, and is in every particular the reverse of the magnificent structure Miss Coutts is erecting at Bethnal-green. That, too, is a market for a less wealthy class than the one at King's-cross will include. But it has spires and stained glass, coloured marble, and ornate carvings, a covered promenade, and residences which bachelors in the Albany might envy. The market-hall in which the White-chapel costermonger will, it is expected, sell, and the Spitalfields weaver or match-box maker buy, resembles some grand old Flemish cathedral just restored, regardless of expense. In short, the Bethnal-green market gives promise of being one of the very handsomest buildings in London, and does infinite credit, as a work of art, to the taste and skill of Mr. Darbishire, its architect. But anyone who visits King's-cross with this structure in his eye, and who expects to find another like it, will be woefully disappointed. There is nothing æsthetic, or fanciful, or even pretty, in the place. The counters and paneling of the shops are of unpainted wood, the flooring is of asphalt, the walls are bare, and the roof is a hybrid of slates and tiles and glass. But every inch is made available, and it looks like what it is intended for. The retail market is in the centre of the group of buildings, and consists of eighty-six stalls or shops, 10 ft. wide and 14 ft. deep, giving an area of 140 ft. to each. It is divided into two avenues, so that every shop has a full frontage. There are no private rooms—indeed, no rooms of any kind. The space is all for the articles sold, and the tenants must rest and sleep elsewhere. On one side of the central or retail portion are the wholesale meat and wholesale vegetable departments; on the other, fish and provisions are sold wholesale and retail. The entrance to all these departments is in St. Pancras road, some fifty yards beyond the passenger-turning to the Great Northern station; and here is to stand the market hotel, through an archway of which the customers and vendors will enter, much as the courtyard of the Grand Hotel at Paris is gained from the boulevard it stands upon.

Already several well-known names from Billingsgate and Leadenhall are inscribed over the market shops, and more than three fourths of its total space is let. If the experiment is successful, the effect upon the food supply of the neighbourhood will be very great indeed. There will be constant competition among men well able to compete; and to those who know the prices and quality of the food sold in poor neighbourhoods that is a sufficient guarantee of a vast social benefit. Capital, enterprise, and skilled knowledge will find their reward in catering for an enormous population of ready-money customers; and if more nourishment can be obtained for a given sum inside the market than beyond its walls the glad tidings will speedily spread among the people. The great want at King's-

cross has been house-room. New shops could not spring up, and trade has been undeveloped literally for want of space. When the Midland Company commenced the work which is so prominent now, it depopulated an enormous district. Whole streets of shops and private dwelling-houses were seized upon, and their occupants compensated and turned out. The new market only meets a portion of the evil, it is true, but it is one which has been affecting the entire neighbourhood. Let the experiment succeed, and all consumers and purchasers of food will be benefited at the West-End. And success depends mainly upon the traders themselves. If a thorough communication be kept up between the great markets—Newgate, Leadenhall, and Billingsgate; if meat and fish are as fresh at King's-cross, and as cheap as if bought in the other markets, there is not much doubt as to the result.

The King's-cross Market commences by appealing largely to the classes whose custom has to be catered for from day to day, who are keen judges of what is best for themselves, and whose ready-money payments make them independent of all considerations which would lead them from the cheapest market. The purchasers we speak of have their own food-bazaars already. Let the observer spend a Saturday evening in Tottenham-court-road, in Leather-lane, in Whitechapel High-street, or in the New-cut, and he will see no lack of animated, prosperous trade. The stalls with their paper candle-lanterns; the "Buy! buy! buy!" of the active shouting men outside the shops; the dense stream of traffic overflowing the pavement, and surging over the roadway till the latter is impassable for vehicles; the careful comparisons made by the purchasers, who, basket on arm, are selecting the dinner for the morrow, all show that a market which really appeals to the wants of a district is certain of success. The new one at King's-cross aims at this, and a good deal more; and all householders and consumers are interested in its prosperity.

ANew SCENE FOR NICKBREAKING.—A party of tourists have just broken fresh ground in a region hitherto unvisited by wandering Englishmen and Alpine climbers. The Caucasian Alps are the scene of the adventure; three gentlemen, named Freshfield, Moore, and Tucker, having ascended the Kasbek Mountain, which rises to a height of 16,500 ft., considerably above the level of the highest Swiss range, and beside which the "monarch" of European mountains itself is dwarfed. The party bivouacked on the night of July 12 at a spot 11,200 ft. above the sea level, started next morning at three, and attained the greatest summit at mid-day. They returned in safety by the northern slope the day after. It is the first occasion that the ascent was ever attempted; and a narrative of the journey would, no doubt, be full of interest, especially to members of the Alpine Club.

LIFE-BOT SERVICES.—The ship *Empire Queen*, of Dublin, while on a voyage to that port from Quebec with a cargo of timber, went ashore last week on the Arklow bank, off the Irish coast, during foggy weather. The life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution stationed at Arklow, Courtown, and Cahore were promptly launched to her assistance, and the second mate of the vessel was brought to shore in the first-named boat, and proceeded to Dublin for the assistance of steamers and barges to lighten the vessel, with the view of getting her off the bank. After they arrived, some portion of the cargo was removed, but, a gale springing up and the sea rising, those vessels had to leave. The Courtown life-boat afterwards succeeded in rescuing from the ship the master, mate, and crew of sixteen men; and the owner's clerk, Lloyd's agent, and one of the men belonging to a steam-tug, and all were brought safely ashore. The vessel was then nearly under water to the decks. The Arklow boat had also gone out again with the view of assisting in the rescue, but her services were not then required. About twelve hours afterwards the vessel floated, with eighteen feet of water in her hold, during a strong wind, which subsequently increased to a moderate gale. As soon as this was observed from the shore, the agent for the owners obtained the services of the Arklow life-boat, and she went off a third time, with the master and others, to see whether it was possible to save the waterlogged ship; and, with much difficulty, they got her before the wind, and, with the aid of a pilot-boat, took her to Kingstown harbour.

HUNGARIAN GIPSIES IN ENGLAND.—Several disturbances have of late occurred in Woolwich in consequence of the appearance in the streets of some singular-looking foreigners with a profusion of long, curling hair, and who were said by the populace to be some of King Theodore's soldiers, who had returned with the Abyssinian army. Being regarded in a hostile attitude, and receiving continual ill-usage, they at length took refuge in the Royal Arsenal, where they received the protection of the police till something could be ascertained about them. On the arsenal interpreters being sent for it transpired that they were well-to-do Hungarian gipsies, who had come over to England partly for pleasure and partly to ply their calling as coppersmiths. They have been wandering about the outskirts of London for some weeks past, and have pitched their tents alternately at Whip's-cross, Wanstead, Forest Gate, and various other commons and open spaces. A number of them settled down in a gipsy encampment at North Woolwich, till dislodged by the mosquitoes, and then went over to South Woolwich; but, owing to the rough reception accorded them, under the misapprehension of their being Theodore's followers, they have left for Epping Forest. The English gipsies encamped on Wanstead Flats declined to have any intercourse with the foreigners, although, it is said, the Romany language is spoken by some of them, the dirty condition and filthy habits of the Hungarians disgusting even the usually not over-nice dwellers in tents of our commons. Certainly, their appearance is most uninviting; and the men, when under the influence of our "bitter," which they have learned to imbibe pretty freely, are, to say the least, formidable. Altogether, they are a most undesirable addition to our vagrant population.

THE NEW CONSTITUENCIES UNDER THE REFORM ACT.—An approximation may now be made as to the numbers of the new constituencies of Liverpool, Birkenhead, and South-West Lancashire. At the last borough election for Liverpool there were 19,900 voters on the register, but the number this year is about 37,750, of whom 20,150 are in the parish, the remainder being in the out townships. In Birkenhead there will be about 2000 voters at the next election, against 3800 at the last, when Mr. Laird polled 2000 votes and his opponent 1000. This slight increase in the Birkenhead list is due to the fact that the population of Birkenhead has decreased about 7000 during the last three years, owing to the partial completion of the dock works and the general depression of trade, especially as regards building operations. In South-West Lancashire (the West Derby Hundred of the late southern division, and in which Mr. Gladstone is one of the candidates) the number of electors was recently about 10,100. At the next election this number will be about doubled, the new occupiers placed on the lists being about 6500, and the new claims (Liberal and Tory) about 4500. Of course, all the above estimates may be considerably altered by the lodgers admitted to the franchise and the decisions of the revising barristers. In Liverpool the payment of rates on the part of persons anxious to become voters is evidently a delusion; for in dozens of cases one person has brought handfuls of the parish rate papers and payed them *en bloc*. In fact, in one street the parish have this year received payment for thirty-one persons, though for years past they had been unable to get a shilling out of it. On the 1st inst., the last day for the payment of rates entitling the payer to be placed on the register, the cashier received the rates of about 1200 persons, and were occupied receiving money up to midnight.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.—The twenty-ninth anniversary of this society took place on Monday—Lord Chesham in the chair. The usual ballot for council and officers for the ensuing year resulted in the election of Earl De la Warr as president; Mr. Edward Marjoribanks, treasurer; and Sir Francis Goldsmid, Mr. Edmund F. Moore, and Mr. R. H. S. Vyvyan as new members of council. The annual report from the council and auditors stated that 138 new fellows and members had joined the society during the year, this number being above that of any one year since 1859—the total names now on the books being 2422. The receipts had been £2468, or £853 above the total of last year. Several alterations in the arrangements of the exhibitions, &c., had been carried out during the season, so as to continue the flower shows during several days, and give greater facilities for the fellows and their friends seeing the plants; total visitors during the year, 118,340, an increase of 11,614 above 1867. Plans are prepared for the enlargement of the conservatory, and for a corridor or covered way to connect it with the public road, and thus make it available as a winter garden during inclement weather. A subscription commenced among the fellows for this purpose is progressing very satisfactorily. The secretary's report mentioned the special value of the educational and economic department of the garden; 130 artists and students were admitted free, and 6246 cut specimens distributed for illustrations. Amongst the many new, curious, and interesting plants added to the collections during the year may be mentioned the vine producing the Levant or pudding currant, so extensively in demand at Christmas time; the celebrated Baobab tree of Africa, and the candle-tree, whose fruit so resembles candles that groves of these trees in South America have been likened to chandeliers' shops; the heliotropes, cashew nut, sweet-scented toinquin bean, the tanning agent divi-divi, and other economic and medicinal plants. The remarkable plants *Fouquieria*, *Longera*, *Agave*, *Davallia*, *Alpinia Nutans*, *Theobroma Cacao*, &c., had flowered during the year. A collection of 230 Abyssinian plants was grouped in the garden, but time had not yet sufficed for the growth of many bulbs and seeds lately received from that interesting country to determine their names. The usual votes of thanks to the president, council, and officers were passed, and the meeting broke up.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon has been paying a flying visit of half an hour to Troyes while on his way from Plombières to Fontainebleau. All the authorities were assembled at the station, the troops were under arms, and there was an immense crowd. The Mayor came forward with an address, and in reply to it his Majesty said:—"I did not wish to pass through Troyes without stopping for a moment to give a proof of my ardent sympathy with the population of Champagne, who are animated by such patriotic sentiments. I noticed with pleasure last year the progress of industry in your department. I beg of you to continue, for nothing threatens at this moment the peace of Europe. Have confidence in the future, and do not forget that God protects France."

La Lanterne, the new satirical paper, edited by M. Henri Rochefort, which has already given the French Government so much trouble, was seized on Saturday by the police. The immediate effect was to set everybody talking about the occurrence, and to create a demand for the forbidden publication, which of course could not be supplied. On the Bourse the competition to obtain copies of *La Lanterne* was so eager that as much as eight and ten francs were paid for a single copy. M. Rochefort, who was sentenced in Paris last week to four months' imprisonment, for an assault upon M. Rochette, has retired to Brussels.

There has been something of a political demonstration among the students in Paris. At the annual distribution of prizes at the Sorbonne, on Monday, the young Prince Imperial presided. This in itself appears to have given some dissatisfaction, for the Prince, it is stated, was coldly received. One of the students, to whom a prize fell, was the son of General Cavaignac, the Republican President, who was seized and cast into prison at the time of the Coup-d'état. The lad, encouraged by his mother, refused to receive the prize from the son of Napoleon, and for this he was loudly cheered by his fellow-students, one of whom has since been expelled from the school. A good deal of uproar prevailed, and when the ceremony had ended the agitation communicated itself to the streets, where shouts of "Vive Rochefort!" "Vive *la Lanterne*!" and "Vive Cavaignac!" are said to have been heard. Many arrests of students are reported.

In the provinces, as well as in Paris, the hostility of the French Government to the independent press continues to be manifested. The *Messenger de l'Ouest*, found guilty of "exciting to hatred and contempt of the Government," has been sentenced, in the person of its manager to a fine of 1000*fr.*, and in that of its editor to 200*fr.* The *Avenir Algerien* has been fined 1000*fr.*, and has another charge still hanging over its head. Notwithstanding these severities, new papers continue to be announced. The programme has just been issued of one which is to appear at Nîmes, under the title of the *Indépendant du Midi*; and at Foix *Le Journal de l'Arriège* is soon to be commenced. "The Administration may do what it likes," says the *Avenir National*, "the spirit of liberty is aroused in France, and nothing will avail against it."

SPAIN.

The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Governors of the provinces recommending them to seek support in the civic and rural guards and the clergy, giving them to understand that the army inspires the Government with but little confidence. Alarming rumours continue to prevail, and the Government is taking great precautions for the suppression of any insurrectionary movement. Notwithstanding official denials, there is no doubt that insurgent bands have made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Caspe, in the province of Aragon. Military forces have been sent thither to pursue them. On the Bourse the fear of public order being disturbed causes great uneasiness, and the position of the finances is also considered serious, the Government having had to borrow money at a high rate of interest, from the Bank of Spain, to pay the salaries of the officials.

The Queen has received a letter from the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier, dated Lisbon, energetically protesting against the order for their exile.

PORTUGAL.

A fire broke out, on Monday night, at the Custom House, Lisbon, near the houses called the *Jardin de Tabaco*. The principal portion of the Custom House was destroyed, and large quantities of cotton and brandy were burnt. The loss is estimated at about £100,000, and the chief part of the property destroyed was not insured.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies was prorogued last Saturday, after passing the much-debated Tobacco Convention Bill by a considerable majority, and voting confidence in the Government. The close of the Session was rendered remarkable by Signor Lanza resigning his presidency of the Chambers, in consequence of having given his voice against the Ministry.

PRUSSIA.

The semi-official *Provincial Correspondence* of Wednesday praises Baron von Beust's recent speech at the rifle meeting in Vienna, on account of its admission that Austria is no longer a German State, nor considers herself called upon to exercise a guiding influence over the destinies of Germany. Prussia will not disturb the internal development of Austria, and will willingly remain upon friendly terms, provided Austrian policy adheres faithfully to the principles of peace and reconciliation it has laid down.

HUNGARY.

At Monday's sitting the Upper House of the Hungarian Diet passed the Army Bill unanimously. The Lower House has terminated its sittings, and will reassemble on Sept. 16.

Prince Alexander Karageorgewicz was arrested in Pesth, on Sunday night, on a warrant from the City Court, and it is thought highly probable that he will be found guilty of complicity in Prince Michael's murder.

THE UNITED STATES.

President Johnson has issued a proclamation announcing that the 14th Constitutional Amendment has been ratified by Georgia. Mr. Seward has also issued a proclamation, declaring that the amendment is fully ratified by the requisite number of States, and is now part of the fundamental law of the Republic.

General Grant, with the approval of President Johnson, has issued an order abolishing the second and third military districts with military supremacy, and forming them into a department of the South, under General Meade. The fourth district is to consist only of Mississippi, under General Gillem; the fifth of Texas, under General Reynolds. The department of Louisiana is to be commanded by General Rousseau, and of Washington by General Canby.

The Tennessee Legislature has passed a bill for funding in thirty years Six per Cent Bonds all the State debts at present existing or becoming due within three years. The preamble of the bill declares the inability of the State to pay the interest due upon the debt.

Messrs. J. Hill and V. Miller, Democrats, have been elected United States Senators of the Georgia Legislature.

Mr. Thaddeus Stevens, the well-known member of Congress, is dead. He was seventy-five years of age, and had held various positions in public life for five-and-thirty years past.

Six million dollars' worth of timber has been destroyed by fire in the forests on the north shore of Lake Superior.

MEXICO.

From Vera Cruz we have the particulars of a number of important successes gained by the Government troops over the rebels in several parts of Mexico; but these successes are counterbalanced by new pronunciamientos, which have become almost a daily occurrence in that unfortunate republic. Great excitement prevailed at Vera Cruz and along the coast, on account of a filibustering expedition which Santa Anna's emissaries were re-

ported to be fitting out at New Orleans, and the Government was taking measures to give them a warm reception whenever they might land.

HAYTI.

There is some not very intelligible news from Hayti; but, as it is stated that Salnave has been received on board an American ship of war, it may be inferred, we suppose, that the fortunes of this leader have at last proved disastrous.

VENEZUELA.

The *New York Herald* states that the civil war in Venezuela has led to three days of sanguinary fighting in the streets of Caracas. The number of killed and wounded on both sides is stated, "on reliable information," to have been about 2500. General Monagas remained master of the field.

LORD NAPIER IN WALES.

LORD NAPIER of Magdala arrived at Welshpool last Saturday, on his way to Powis Castle and Trelydan, where General Scott, his father-in-law lives. At half-past one o'clock the Mayor and Corporation assembled at the Townhall, where they formed in procession, in which they were joined by a considerable number of the inhabitants, and proceeded soon after two o'clock to the railway station to meet the train bringing the gallant General from London. The train ran into the station soon afterwards, and as Lord Napier stepped from the carriage the assembled spectators greeted him with cheers, while the Mayor and Corporation bade him welcome to the town in an address, to which he briefly replied. Salutes were simultaneously fired by a detachment of the Shropshire Volunteer Artillery Corps. A guard of honour, consisting of members of the 2nd Montgomeryshire Volunteers, presented arms, and afterwards escorted his Lordship to the carriage of the Earl of Powis, whose guest the gallant General is to remain for some days to come. Having, with his wife, taken his seat in a carriage, a procession was formed, and accompanied his Lordship as far as the entrance to Powis Castle park.

Lord Napier was entertained at a grand banquet in the evening by the Mayor, Corporation, and inhabitants, at the Royal Oak Hotel. About 120 guests sat down, presided over by Mr. E. T. D. Harrison, the Mayor, the vice-chairs being filled by Mr. W. Withy, ex-Mayor, and Alderman Bowen. Upon the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured. The "Health of Lord Napier and the gallant Army who accompanied him in the Abyssinian campaign" was afterwards drunk with great enthusiasm.

Lord Napier, in reply, thanked the party for the cordial way in which the toast had been received, and went on to assure them that no army ever went forth more earnest and desirous to fulfil the commands of their country; and by the army he meant, not only the soldiers, but sailors, the mercantile marine, and the gallant remnant of India, the whole force being animated with one spirit. The duty which they were required to perform was to release their countrymen from captivity and to vindicate the honour of England at the least possible expense of suffering. The task was not an easy one. The boundary which separated the country they travelled through from that which adjoined it was a disturbed one—such a disturbed boundary as that which once divided England and Wales. His object was to effect no negotiation with Theodore; to meet all advances from Theodore with a simple demand of the prisoners. He should have received them, and then simply advanced and taken Theodore himself. He considered that the honour of England required that that man should come from his place, and no act had ever been authorised by him that could lead him to depart from that resolve. They had read the history of how the British army had advanced, how it had been attacked, and the enemy defeated. The result of that defeat was the complete cowering of Theodore's army. His courage fell. He (Lord Napier) believed his nerves had been shaken by debauchery; that he had paroxysms of alternate fury and depression. It was while labouring under this depression that he sent back the whole of the prisoners except three or four. It had been said that Theodore had been deceived; and he was glad to take that public opportunity of saying that nothing had been authorised by him which could have led him to the belief that he would accept one jot less than the terms of his just demand. The first person who was sent to him by Theodore was Lieutenant Prideaux. Theodore said—"Yesterday I thought myself the strongest man in the world; to-day I know that there are stronger than I, and I want peace." He (Lord Napier) wrote to him that if he gave up all the prisoners, he and his family would be honourably treated. He wished to say nothing that would exasperate him or make him desperate; but, on the other hand, he did not wish to lead him to believe that he would take less than he had demanded. On his return, Lieutenant Prideaux met the greater part of the prisoners released, and he returned with them; and the same night all the prisoners for whom they were officially responsible were in the English camp. Lieutenant Prideaux had acted most gallantly in the affair. Whatever Theodore might have conceived, or his servants might have persuaded him, it was perfectly clear that the British General could not authorise anything but the original terms which he had put forth. Theodore could not believe that we should show mercy, as he had never shown it himself. The Abyssinian prisoners, when they were taken wounded to the hospital, finding we were not going to slaughter them, looked upon our acts as the generosity of angels. They could not believe it; and such was the feeling in Theodore's mind, that mercy was impossible. He attempted to escape; but the surrounding hills were filled with his enemies, and he returned and died by his own hand. His Lordship explained why he destroyed Magdala—to make it harmless, as the only chief who was likely to hold it declined to have it, and said he protected with his army the inhabitants until they had arrived at a safer territory. He mentioned several instances of gallantry and kindness on the part of the soldiers towards the natives, and concluded with some general remarks.

COAL-PIT ON FIRE.—About four o'clock last Saturday morning a coal-pit situated in Park-lane, Ashton, and belonging to Mercer and Evans, was discovered to be on fire, the blaze coming up to the mouth of the pit. An alarm was immediately raised, and on the authorities examining the pits they found it was necessary to stop up the mouths of this and three other pits, which was accordingly done during Saturday. All went on well until about six o'clock on Sunday morning, when a man named Thomas Brownlow, a joiner, who had been assisting the previous day in closing the pits, saw steam escaping through the puddled stopping of one of them. He stepped on to the puddle and began to tread it down to prevent steam further escaping, when, by some means or other, the scaffolding underneath gave way, and the poor fellow was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of about 240 ft. The body of the unfortunate man still remains there, the smoke and heat rendering it utterly impossible for any one to descend. It will be a month at least before it will be safe to remove the stoppings from the mouth of the pits. The fire has thrown between 200 and 300 persons out of work.

NEW CURE FOR LEPROSY.—It is well known in India, though not so at home, that Dr. Bhau Daji, a skilled native physician in Bombay, has for many years made the cure of leprosy a special object of investigation, with so much success as to entitle him to be regarded, according to the local papers, as "one of the benefactors of the world." Latterly, Dr. Bhau has striven to establish an hospital solely for lepers, where his treatment and regimen can be rigidly administered, and therefore more thoroughly tested than heretofore. We learn from a trustworthy eye-witness that there are at present seventy cases under this treatment, "some quite cured, and others in all stages of cure." It is stated that "the cure is slow, varying with the stage of the disease, the age and constitution of the patient, &c.; but that in four to eight months wonderful effects are produced;" and that Dr. Bhau is sanguine, not without good reason, "that the worst cases may be cured in twelve months." One "bad" case instance is that of a student, who, under very careful ordinary medical treatment for eight months, received no benefit from it whatever, but, having now tried Dr. Bhau Daji's regimen and medicine for three months, feels sure he will be quite cured by them, and is already not unfit to appear in public. Those who know what leprosy is in India, and how totally European skill and the benignity of native *quacks* have failed in treating this proverbially loathsome and degrading disease, will look with interest on the progress of Dr. Bhau Daji's very hopeful experiments.—*Edw. Mott Gosselin.*

PARTNERSHIPS OF INDUSTRY.

UNDER the auspices of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union there have been lately held, at 150, Strand, meetings for discussion of important social questions, between persons of different ranks, and having for one of their main objects the promotion of friendly feeling between the different classes, and the removal of errors due to the mere lack of opportunity, or statement of facts, and interchange of opinions. Some of the more recent meetings have been particularly interesting. At three of them a question was discussed, wherein the principles of action of the Free Labour Society, which is promoted by Colonel Maude, or those of trades' unions were the more deserving the support of the working classes, the principal speakers including such men as Mr. Allan and Mr. Applegarth, representatives of unions, and Dr. W. B. Hodgson, Mr. Hodgson Pratt, and other friends of the working classes, but disposed to repudiate all policy of the protection or support of one class at the expense of other classes. Last week the particular matter of industrial partnerships was discussed, the question being whether there was evidence that a system of division of profits between master and workmen in a trading concern could be maintained so as to conduce to the welfare alike of workmen and capitalists. The discussion was opened by Mr. Edward Hall, F.S.A., a member of the council of the union, who has given much attention to the subject in France, and who lately, at a conference which was presided over by the Earl of Lichfield, showed by evidence the importance of a good understanding between the parties in a manufacturing and trading concern to the object of improved technical education of artisans. Mr. Hall's observations went to show that the question between the trades unionists and others in the previous discussion was left in a most unsatisfactory state, and had not resulted in showing how the great mass of the poor, or lower working class, were to be provided for; but that there were measures of palliation which might end in being remedial, and as to the value of the immediate introduction of which there was ample evidence, such as he had to offer. After a brief reference to arbitration and conciliation, which he distinguished from one another, saying that the value of measures aiming at the former was doubtful, whilst the feasibility of conciliation was completely proven (as by the fact that the majority of cases before the *Conseils des Prud'hommes* were settled not judicially), Mr. Hall spoke of the principles of co-operation between workmen, and contrasted it with that of competition, quoting from a *mémoire* by Blanqui, read in 1846 before the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the French Institute, and from later expressions of opinion. Considering, however, that co-operative undertakings amongst workmen alone were impracticable in the large majority of cases, because some amount of accumulated saving or capital was necessary at first, he inferred that the chief means of promoting the interests of the working classes, and the consumer with the capitalist also, for some time to come, must be looked for in associations based on the principle of a division of profits between the master and the workmen. The question before them was, was there evidence that such associations could be maintained? He was provided with evidence, derived from the existence of one such partnership since the year 1842; and that association was now contributing to the solution, not only of the question that was then prominent, but to that of other questions amongst the most important of the time. In that trading concern, the house-painting establishment of M. Leclaire, in Paris, not one of the conditions predicted as operating to the destruction of partnership relations between a master and his workmen had ever troubled the harmony between M. Leclaire and his subordinates. As to management, the point on which it had been predicted that such partnerships must break down, there was no lack of it; whilst M. Leclaire, in answer to Mr. Hall, with reference to the assertion that such concerns could not get through periods of commercial disaster, had said he could not imagine why they should do so less successfully than partnerships of the old kind. Whilst there was no lack of management in M. Leclaire's case, there was no concealment of the state of the common business and property; and Mr. Hall mentioned another partnership, similar to that of the *Maison Leclaire*, wherein there was a provision for the examination of the books by representatives elected by the workmen. The results in M. Leclaire's establishment were briefly these, as the chief:—1, Entire freedom since 1842 from strikes; 2, a partition of the profits, in two equal parts, between M. Leclaire and an associate of his on the one hand, and the workmen on the other hand; 3, the maintenance of a provident society for cases of sickness and accident, old age, widowhood, and orphanhood; 4, diminished sickness, from the nature of the house-painter's occupation, by the use of methods that had been tried in this country, following M. Leclaire, but had been here abandoned; 5, superior execution of the work and opportunity given to the public to test the execution; 6, improved demeanour of the workmen, of which there was the highest testimony; and, 7, education of apprentices and others in the craft, with courses of lectures and social reunions tending to render permanent the relations and to secure the advantage of all. There were, however, the speaker urged, more extended results possible from co-operation than were immediately deducible from what had been said of the success of a single trading establishment. In France M. Leclaire looked to one of the most important spheres of co-operation as in connection with agriculture; and he was already actively engaged in the promotion of one such undertaking in the commune of Herblay, near Paris, of which he was *Maire*.

The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Lloyd Jones, Mr. Charles Holme, Mr. Lilwall, and several workmen, most of the speakers looking forward to a change of the relations between the labourer and the capitalist as inevitable. The discussion will be resumed on the last Thursday in this month.

THE GREAT RIFLE MEETING AT VIENNA.

THE festival of the German Rifles Association recently held in Vienna has been quite a grand affair, and has passed off with great success. The first festival of the association was held in Frankfurt, under the auspices of the Duke of Coburg; the second was held in Bremen; and the third has just been held in Vienna. No fewer than 300 targets had been erected, and the sum laid out in preparation amounted to more than £20,000. Members from all parts of Germany flocked to the festival—300 from Munich, 400 from Frankfurt, 500 from Stuttgart, from 1500 to 2000 from Saxony, and 10,000 from the Austrian provinces. Large contingents also came from Switzerland, Belgium, Alsace, Lorraine, &c. The Germans of Alexandria sent 1000 florins to the committee, the German colony of Puerto Rico a silver drinking-horn.

The Germans in Paris got up a subscription for a prize to the rifle marksmen at Vienna. It consists of a silver cup with stand and cover, and weighs altogether 5 lb. Two angels, one on each side, form the handles; and on the surface between them is the inscription—on one side, "The Germans in France to their brethren in Vienna;" and on the other, "For the 3rd German Federal Shooting-Match; Paris, July, 1868."

Although this may in some measure be regarded as a German Wimbledon meeting, nothing less like Wimbledon-common as it appeared a few weeks ago can well be imagined. The space devoted to the accommodation of the shooters and those who came to see the shooting was about fifteen acres in extent, but only a comparatively small portion of this space was devoted to the actual business of shooting. The ranges were all what we in England should term short, and, as the targets were placed very close together, while the shooters stood almost side by side under the protection of long wooden sheds, a very large number of rifle-men could be accommodated in a very small place. There was no camp, that great attraction of Wimbledon, but its place was in some degree supplied by a number of spacious and really handsome wooden buildings, all of which had been erected in five weeks, in which means were provided for the accommodation and amusement of the competitors. There was likewise a great

banqueting-hall, in which feasting and speechmaking were indulged in to a rather liberal extent. There were, besides, displays of fireworks, concerts, balls, &c., for the amusement of the members and visitors. A certain degree of political significance has also been imparted to the meeting, to which the Emperor Francis Joseph paid a visit, and members of the Government have spoken at some of the numerous banquets held. For instance, at a banquet given to the Rifles Giskra, the Austrian Minister of the Interior, in reply to a toast given by Mittermayer, of Heidelberg, said:—

You have honoured by an enthusiastic toast the men who, honoured by the confidence of the Emperor and possessing the confidence of the people, are now directing the government. These men have undertaken the task in the confidence that Austria, though severely tried, was not yet dead—in the conviction that this great Power was but ill from false maxims of government—in the conviction that Austria may become a giant if she has her arms free, those arms which have been tied by ignorance and unfortunate treaties. They know that it is only by loosening these old fetters that she can put an end to the compression of her intellectual and economic life, and they are persuaded that Austria can recover her strength on the free road of progress. As Austria is to-day, thanks to the Emperor, one of the freest States in the world, Austria will become, by the policy of progress which her Government is pursuing, that which you all desire. Assured of all your assent, I drink, therefore, to the future of Austria renewing her youth in the path of progress.

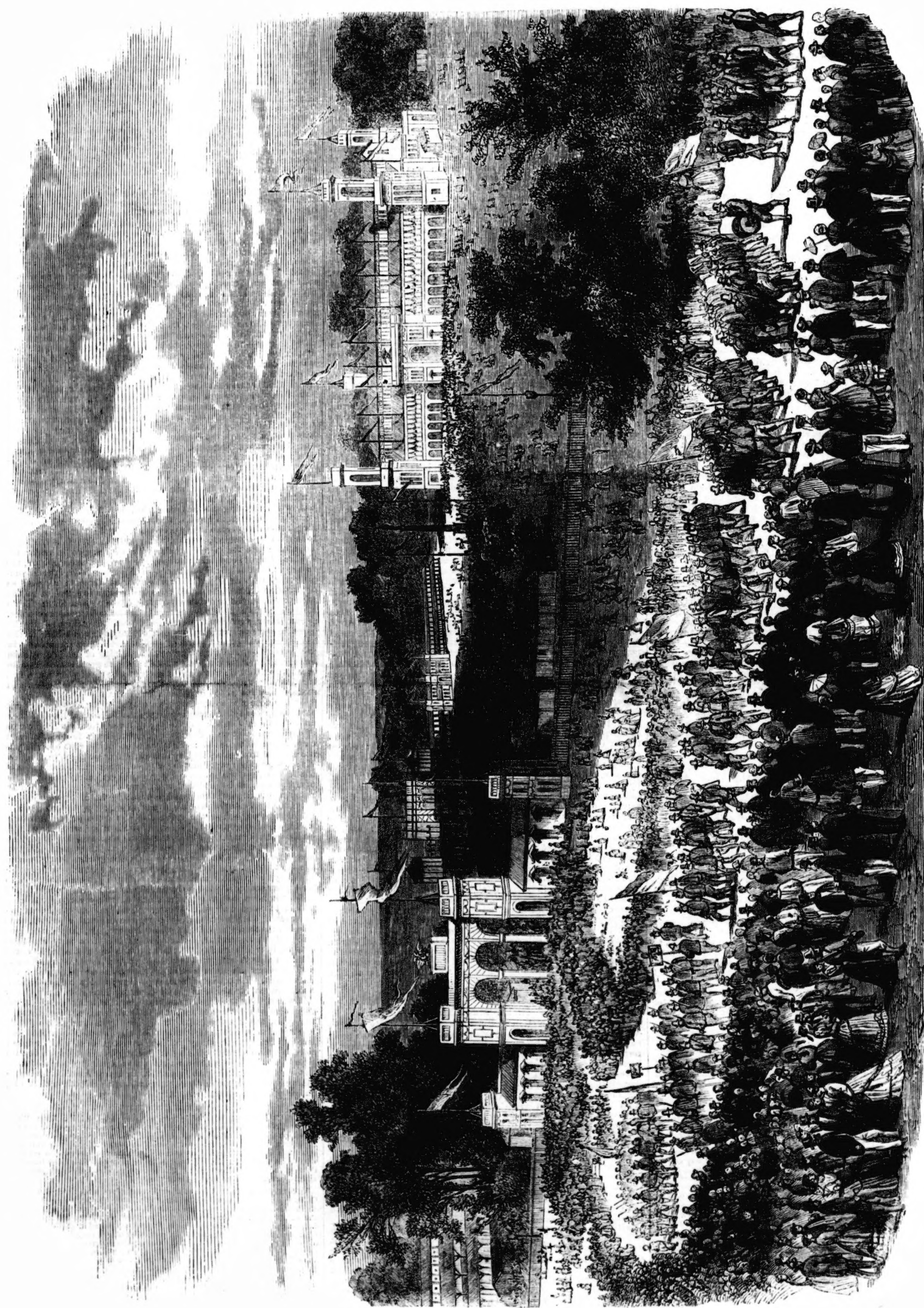
The closing banquet, which took place in the Fest Halle on the afternoon of the 6th inst., was made more interesting than usual by the presence of Herr von Beust, who not only shared the festivities of the day, but himself played a principal part in them by making a speech after dinner. His reception by the riflemen and their friends was most enthusiastic. Bouquets were presented to him, on every side hands were held out to meet him, and for some time the great hall resounded with the cries of "Hoch Beust!" This reception, although very flattering, must have been somewhat embarrassing to the Minister. If such affection was manifested towards, and so much confidence reposed in, him, surely something would be expected from him in the way of return; some assurance that Austria responded to the wishes of her guests; some indication that she was prepared to take steps for their fulfilment. No such assurance was Herr von Beust prepared to give—no such hope was he in a position to hold out. The first expression which greatly aroused the interest of the audience was the declaration of the speaker that, although he had become a good Austrian, he remained a good German. Afterwards he referred somewhat mournfully to the small results which had followed previous great national fêtes, reminding his audience that with the music, the singing, and the drinking their effects had passed away, and that they had speedily been followed by wars. The reason he assigned for this was that, although the German people were united, their Princes and Governments were not. Such a state of things he denounced as a monstrous anomaly, and proclaimed, to the delight of his hearers, that in our days there would be no more wars made by Cabinets. With reference to the position of the country of which he is the Minister, Herr von Beust admitted that at present Austrian policy had nothing to do with the affairs of Germany; but, while assuring his audience that her Ministers would find occupation enough in meeting the wants of the empire, he did not forget to assert that no treaty prevented Austria from endeavouring to obtain the respect, esteem, and good-will of her neighbours. To secure the union and combination of her people under the sceptre of their august Emperor was, he declared, in conclusion, the future mission of the Government of Austria; and as the accomplishment of this object was a matter of German as well as of Austrian interest, he called upon his hearers to join him in the wish that it might be obtained with complete respect for the rights of the subject and with a due regard to the maintenance of order. When Herr von Beust descended from the tribune—all the speeches were delivered from a sort of pulpit in the middle of the hall—there was quite a storm of applause. Hats were waving in every direction, and the shouting and clapping of hands continued for some time. His speech seemed to give great satisfaction to those who heard it; but when it comes to be read people will find that, as might naturally be expected, it contains no promises and scarcely any indication of policy whatever.

At the close of the banquet the various shooting clubs or societies that have attended the meeting began to take formal leave of their entertainers in Vienna; and all through the afternoon the process of departure went on. The order of proceedings followed in most cases appeared to be this:—Such members of the club or society as are still in town mustered round their flag or flags in the Fest Halle, where they were met by some of the general committee of the festival, and where healths were drunk and many protestations of friendship and good-will were exchanged. After a certain amount of hand-shaking and embracing here, they marched, preceded by a band of music and accompanied by the members of the committee, across the ground to the gates of the inclosure, where a last speech was delivered and final adieus were exchanged. So frequent were these little processions that the duty of playing them out was found too arduous for one military band, and two had to be engaged in the service. Of the parties that attracted the most notice, and in whose honour most enthusiasm was exhibited by the public, was a band of sturdy Tyrolean riflemen, who were preceded by a worn and tattered flag of green silk, which had no doubt been borne into the thick of many a stubborn contest in the old war with France. This gallant band was accompanied to the gates by a very considerable crowd, and when it reached the limit of the inclosure, Dr. Kopp, the president of the association, delivered in its honour a very elaborate oration, in which he dwelt with emphasis upon the loyalty and affection always exhibited by the Tyrolese towards the Kaiser; and bespoke from them a similar devotion to the interests of the Fatherland. Then came the final parting; and a curious scene it was. Stout men dancing and capering like goats; big, burly fellows hugging and kissing one another like schoolgirls. After this there was more shouting, the tattered banner passed through the gates, the Tyrolese tore themselves from the arms of their Austrian hosts, and the little band of mountaineers marched out into the Prater. This may be taken as a sample of what occurred as each group of riflemen left the ground; but it must not be supposed that in all cases there was so warm a manifestation of interest on the part of the public, or that in every instance the leaving-taking was accompanied by so unrestrained an exhibition of feeling on the part of hosts and guests.

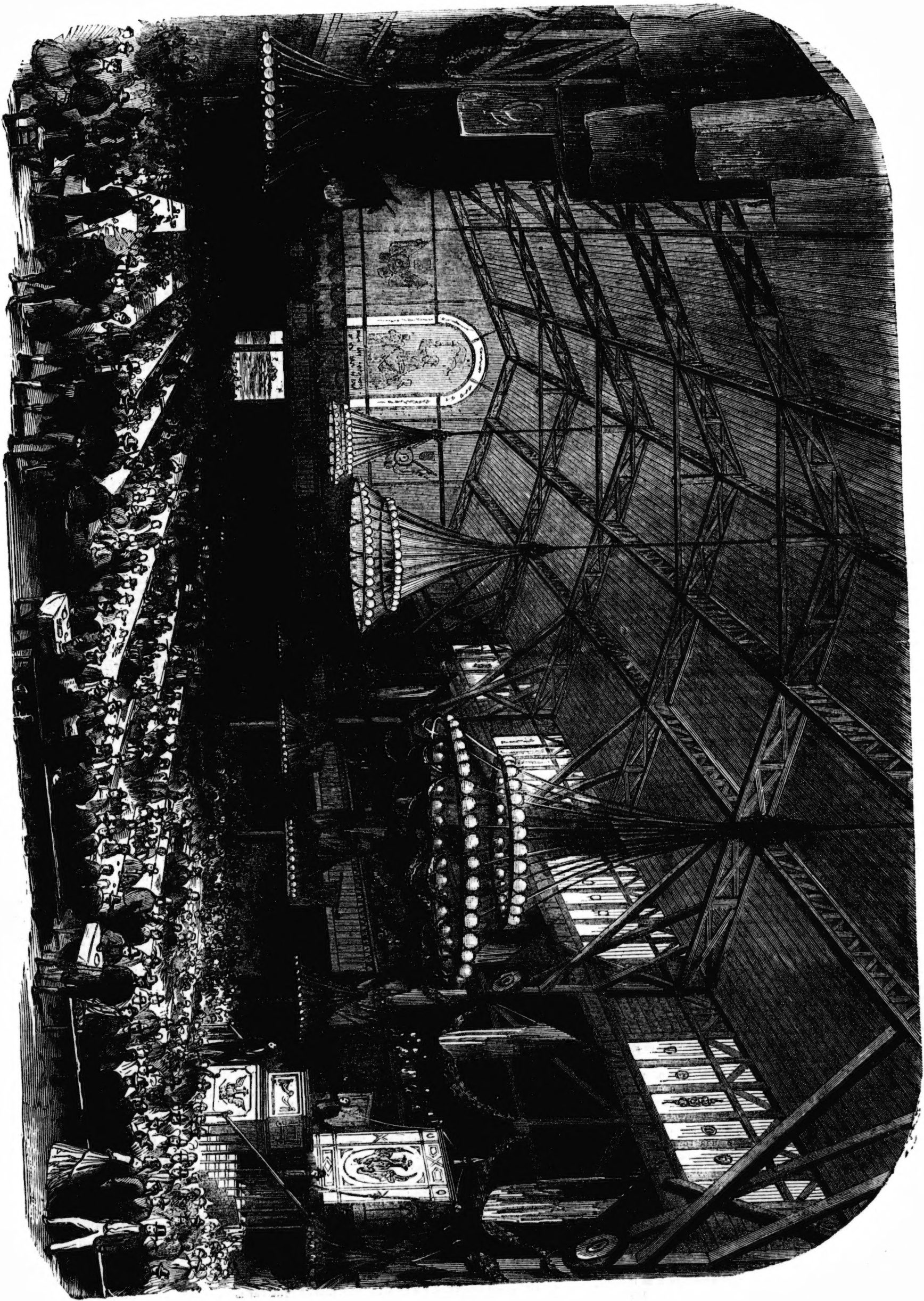
LODGER LAW.—A body of lodgers of the parish of St. Anne, Westminster, lately forwarded to Mr. Mill a resolution condemnatory of the law by which the goods of a lodger who had paid his rent to his immediate landlord are liable to seizure by the head landlord. At the same time they asked the hon. gentleman's opinion as to how far the statute could be modified or repealed. Mr. Mill advises the lodgers to petition the new Parliament for its repeal, adding: "The grievances which are most petitioned against are likely to be the soonest redressed."

VALENTINES.—In 1866 the number of valentines sent through the Post Office was estimated at 997,900, whilst, in 1867, the number rose to 1,119,142. As in previous years, it was found that the valentines sent from London to the country were twice as numerous as those sent from the country to London; and also that the number of valentines posted in the Western District was, in both years, greatly in excess of the number posted in any other district of London. The estimated postage derived from the valentines passing through London was £9354 in 1866, and £11,242 in 1867. Valentines having postage charged upon them to the amount of nearly £200 in each year were refused by the persons to whom they were addressed.

A CO-OPERATIVE COAL COMPANY.—The annual general meeting of Messrs. Henry Briggs, Son, and Company (Limited), proprietors of the Whitwood and Methley Collieries, was held on Monday. It is the first, if not the only, concern managed under a system of co-operation between masters and men. At the pits over 1200 hands are employed, and all who qualify themselves by keeping a book in which their wages are entered, and taking it to be verified before a certain day in July, are entitled to a certain proportion of half the percentage over 10 per cent of the divisible profits, the portion varying according to the nature of the work done. This year the sum of £3150 has been thus set apart, the company, after making ample allowance for all contingencies and capitalising 10s. every £10 share, being able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent and 24 per cent bonus to the shareholders, in addition to 24 per cent bonus to the men.



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1868.

CHURCH BELLS.

"RINGING ISLANDERS" was a name once given by our Continental neighbours to us Britons, because, as an old writer remarks, "they be always a-jingling with their bells." We "be always a-jingling with our bells" still, to the great discomfort of many among us. Church bells were useful once, no doubt, when clocks were few and people required to be "knolled to Church" because they had no other means of knowing when it was time to go there. Doubtless, too, it was merry time in England when the church bells were ringing, the village was gay, and Lilla, famed in song, was being made a lady. Furthermore, there may be places in England still where the ringing of church bells is not only useful but pleasant. That, however, cannot be said of the everlasting jangle with which on every day, and on Sundays especially, our ears are afflicted in London and other large towns.

This bell nuisance, in fact, is becoming something dreadful—every bit as bad as were the organ-men in quiet streets before Mr. Bass undertook the task of putting them down. The mathematical soul of Mr. Babbage is sorely vexed by the hurdy-gurdy men, brass bands, and other raisers of hideous noises in the streets; but how he manages to endure the infliction of the church bells passes our comprehension. They nearly drive us frantic at times; and yet we are neither immersed in such profound studies nor are we so keenly sensitive as is the learned inventor of the calculating machine. The noise and turmoil of the Strand and Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill and Cheapside, would be unendurable were it not that they help to mask the sound of the church bells. But how must it be in those quiet neighbourhoods that are resorted to, vainly, by studious men, who have not, like most newspaper writers, been made callous in their auricular organs by habitual contact with noise! No region of the metropolis is so retired as to be free from the sound of church bells; and when they begin to jangle, in concert or in rivalry, evil is the hap of the sick, the studious, and the nervous. And the mischief is every day becoming greater, as churches become multiplied. A multiplicity of churches ought, we suppose, to be accounted a great good and a sign of civilisation and the spread of religion. We are content to accept the churches, and be grateful; but we deprecate the bells; for, with a multiplicity of church bells, we may, slightly varying the old saw, say that the nearer the church the farther from peace.

It is said that the finely-strung nerves of the late John Leech were sadly racked by the noises of London; and we feel sure that the bells must have largely contributed to the torture he endured. And if we add sickness to nervousness, sad indeed must be the plight of the unhappy man, woman, or child, who has a clang-clang, jingle-jangle, ding-dong of the vaunted "Sabbath bell," for ever ringing in the ear. What is to become of the poor sick and sensitive wight, now that the shriek of the locomotive and the rattle of the railway train are superadded to the jangling of the church bells, we know not. Certain it is, however, that he or she so troubled is deserving of profound sympathy.

We are informed that a certain silly person, who lived in unenlightened past times, mortgaged a sum of money to provide a leg of mutton and trimmings, through all futurity, for certain other silly persons who should onenight in each week "ring the changes," accomplish a "peal of bells," perform a "triple-bob-major," or some such thing, in the steeple of one of the Strand churches, and that said silly persons regularly go through the performance—for the sake of the mutton and trimmings, of course, not because of any special pleasure they take in bell-ringing, and certainly altogether indifferent to the suffering they inflict upon the sick denizens of the vicinity. Now, we should like to know what is the right of this dead mortgagor of mutton and of these living consumers of it to make night hideous, and torture their fellow-creatures in this fashion. The dead man's ears are closed, and he can no longer derive pleasure—such as it is—from his favourite bell-ringing; but living people's heads may be made to ache and their nerves to thrill with pain by the horrible and pandemonium-like jangle that bursts forth when the aforeaid "peal of bells" or "triple-

bob-major" is in progress; and we humbly submit that this and all similar inflictions should be interdicted. Every Act of Parliament passed to repress nuisances should, it seems to us, contain a clause putting down bell-ringing.

Then those bells are a source of strife, and a nuisance in another way. The several sects rival and contend with each other for the privilege of annoying the public by bell-ringing on Sundays, and on week days also sometimes. The Established Church has bells, and so Dissenters also must have bells, and ring them—at least, they would if they could; and it is some consolation to quiet people that in certain cases they cannot. An instance of this rivalry in the matter of bells happens to be known to us. In a certain district of London there is, of course, a parish church, well furnished with a sonorous set of bells and served by lusty ringers. In the immediate vicinity there is a Dissenting and also a Roman Catholic chapel. The Church adherents being "respectable" people, go to service half an hour later on Sundays than do the common Dissenters and Catholics; and of course the parish bell is kept ringing after service has been begun in the chapels, the occupants of which are greatly disturbed and annoyed thereby. To obviate this, the parish Incumbent was invited to assimilate his time of service to that of his neighbours, and so do away with the annoyance caused by the bell-ringing. But, bless you! that could not be acceded to. Bell-ringing was one of the privileges of the Church; and the Incumbent, as the guardian of the Church's rights in that particular nook of her territory, could relinquish nothing by which her supremacy was indicated. He would be betraying the sacred trust committed to him were he to do anything of the sort. Besides, what right had low Catholics and Dissenters to complain? They ought to be thankful for being allowed to worship at all, even with the parish bell jangling in their ears. And so the bell-ringing was continued more vigorously than ever. But we grieve to say that an evil and unchristian spirit was engendered among the Papists and Dissenters. Far from being grateful for the indulgences accorded to them, they determined to have bells of their own and to retaliate upon their haughty neighbour: to subdue his clamour by a still greater clangour of their own, upon the principle, we suppose, that actuated the Scotch sexton who tried to drown his wife's scolding by pulling lustily at the parish bell-rope. But, bless you again! Nonconformist bells could not be permitted. These recalcitrant Papists and Dissenters forgot the "privileges of the Church." An interdict against the use of their bran-new bells was granted, at the instance of the Incumbent and the parish authorities, by the law courts, which declared that the Church, and the Church only, was entitled to ring bells on Sundays and other holy days. The results are that the Nonconformist bells in that spot are mute; but there is a sense of injustice in the hearts of their owners, and heart-burning and ill-blood between them and their neighbours of the Church.

Now, we submit that the maintenance of the Church's privileges, and the calling of people to worship—when they can easily know from private and public timepieces when the hour for assembling arrives—are insufficient compensations for the suffering, the annoyance, and the strife caused by bell-ringing; and that, therefore, bell-ringing ought to be discontinued in all populous places and at all inconvenient seasons; or, at all events, that the time occupied in the operation—usually some twenty or thirty minutes—should be greatly curtailed. And we are certain that by either measure a vast deal of pain and much ill-feeling would be obviated. Will parish clergymen and Church officials have the grace and Christian kindness to initiate such a reform as that we have proposed, and thereby ease the aching heads and sweeten the breath of society?

A WIDOW NAMED DE LEUW, of Berne, in Switzerland, has just celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of her birthday. The corporation of tanners, to which her husband had belonged, presented her on this occasion with a silver fruit-dish with a commemorative inscription, and the direction of the Botanical Garden sent her a magnificent bouquet.

THE PENNY RECEIPT ON STAMPS, DRAUGHTS, &c., produced, in the financial year 1867-8, not less than £586,964, an increase of £17,822 over the product of the preceding year. The discount and allowances exceeded £24,000, and reduced the net produce to £562,964.

TWO ASSIZE SERMONS, preached at Winchester by the Rev. Mr. Young, the father of the celebrated author of "Night Thoughts," have been presented to the public library at Winchester, and an Abyssinian scroll of prayer found at Magdala has been presented to the Winchester Museum.

THE LAST SURVIVOR of the party of young ladies, who strewed flowers in the path of Washington as he passed through Trenton, in 1789, on his way to New York, to assume the presidency, is Mrs. Sarah Hand, now nearly ninety years of age, and a resident of Cape May county.

THE HERBERT MEMORIAL PRIZE, the first that has been given since its foundation, was last week awarded at the Army Medical School, Netley, to Dr. Cunningham, of Edinburgh University, after a very sharp competition with Mr. Lewis, of University College, London. Dr. Cunningham took the first place for her Majesty's Indian Medical Service, and Mr. Lewis occupied the same position on the list of the British Medical Service.

THE PRACTICE OF SLOWLY BLEEDING CALVES TO DEATH in order to whiten the flesh was incidentally referred to on Thursday at Guildhall in a prosecution instituted by the Commissioners of Sewers. The presiding magistrate denounced the custom as a most cruel one, and recommended it to the notice of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A COMPENSATION CASE tried on Wednesday, at the Ipswich Assizes, had a curious result. A commercial traveller brought an action against the Great Northern Company to recover damages for injuries sustained in a recent collision. He claimed £1500, and the company offered £1000. The plaintiff was not satisfied, and on appealing to a jury was awarded £750.

THE HILL OF ANTELAO, which hangs over several villages of Cadore, and was always an object of terror to the villagers, gave way on the evening of July 27, when several of the inhabitants had retired to rest. It is supposed that the great heat of the weather melted the snow on the mountain, and that the water washed away the small support of the masses of overhanging rock. In a brief space eleven persons were buried under the ruins of their houses, and more than 60 families are rendered homeless.

PROFESSORS D. T. ANSTED, M.A., F.R.S.; Thos. L. Donaldson, member of the Institute of France; and Robert Kerr, F.R.I.A.; with Dr. Edwin Lankester, F.R.S.; and Mr. Charles Reed, F.S.A., have consented to become vice-presidents of the Public Museums and Free Libraries Association. Professor Donaldson, it may be remembered, was an active and successful co-worker with the late Mr. Joseph Hume, M.P., and Mr. Fogg, in the movement for opening to the public these splendid monuments of ecclesiastical architecture, the English cathedrals.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY arrived safely at Lucerne on Friday morning week, after a comfortable and agreeable journey from Paris. The Queen, who is accompanied by Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, is expected to remain three or four weeks, the villa chosen for the Royal residence being situated amidst some of the most beautiful scenery of Switzerland.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, with suite, arrived at Abergele Castle on Tuesday afternoon. The weather was very wet, rain having, for the first time for three months, been falling heavily and steadily for the space of sixteen hours.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH has arrived at Potsdam on a visit to the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia. On Wednesday night a grand soiree was to be held in his honour.

PRINCE ARTHUR, who has completed the brief engineering course marked out for him at Chatham, on Monday went to Middlesbrough, where his Royal Highness, on Tuesday, formally opened a public park.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS TECK was safely delivered of a boy at Kensington Palace, at half-past four o'clock on Thursday morning.

THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA has arrived at Munich, en route for Garatzhausen, on the lake of Stairberg, where her Majesty contemplates a sojourn of a few weeks.

THE HEALTH OF THE PRINCE ROYAL OF BELGIUM has lately given cause for much anxiety on the part of the King and Royal family, and of all, indeed, who wish well to the present dynasty. We are happy to learn that the condition of the invalid is improving, and that his physicians encourage the hope of his recovery.

THE HON. REVERDY JOHNSON, the newly-appointed United States Minister to this country, left Baltimore in the steam-ship City of Baltimore on the 1st inst.

MR. CARTIER, of the Canadian Privy Council, has been created a Baronet of the United Kingdom.

PRINCE GAGARIN, Marshal of the nobles of Moscow, and his son have been drowned at Ischl. Whilst fishing, the son fell into the water, and the father jumped in in order to save him. The body of the father was soon recovered, but all attempts to restore him to life proved fruitless. The body of the son was not found till night.

MR. STUART MILL, M.P., AND DR. DARWIN received the honorary degree of Doctor of Law at the recent celebration of the festival of Bonn University.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone and family, left Hawarden Castle, Flintshire, on Monday last, for Penryn-mawr, near Conway, North Wales, at which watering-place they will pass a month.

MR. JOHN DOUGLAS COOKE, the editor of the *Saturday Review*, died, at his residence in the Albany, Piccadilly, on Monday.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR has, under the provisions of the new army organisation system, appointed Commissary-General Drake, C.B., Comptroller of Army Expenditure in Ireland. From Oct. 1 he will have the supervision of the military store, purveying, and barrack departments in Ireland.

DR. RUSSELL, the well-known special correspondent, and Mr. Freake, a large employer of labour in the borough, are to be brought forward as the Conservative candidates for Chelsea.

M. LOUIS BLANC, it is said, is to be one of the candidates for Paris at the ensuing general election.

LADY LEITH, of Westhall, has deducted 10 per cent. from the rent of grass parks let by her this season, in consequence of the drought.

LORD LYTTON is engaged in writing, or rather in rewriting, a play for the Lyceum. It will, perhaps, be called "The Sea Rover," and will be founded on a story which the author has already made his own.

THE OBJECTS OF ART COLLECTED BY PRINCE NAPOLEON during his recent excursion to Germany and the East are being arranged in his Highness's residence of the Palais Royal.

MR. CROKER, a young Irish gentleman, has obtained £2,200 damages against the Great Northern Railway Company for injuries received in an accident at Hitchin.

THE WIDOW OF STONEWALL JACKSON has presented to Mr. David Macrae, of Glasgow, the coat worn by the great soldier when he fell in the arms of victory on the battle-field.

MR. HOWARD GLOVER is getting up in America monster concerts similar to those which brought him into notoriety in Europe.

THE CHATEAU LAFITE ESTATE, which was put up on June 20 last at the upset price of £180,000, and bought in, was again offered at public sale in Paris on the 8th inst., at the reduced price of £120,000, and sold, after spirited competition, for £165,600.

MR. FIGOTT, of the *Irishman* newspaper, was released from prison last Saturday.

A STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC is to be inaugurated at Melun on the 15th, in commemoration of the relief of that town by the Maid of Orleans, when it was besieged by the English, in 1430.

ADAM ISAACS MENKEN, the well-known actress, died the other day, rather suddenly, in Paris.

A NEW LEVY has been ordered in the kingdom of Poland. The recruits are to be 5½ per 1000 of the whole population, which is 1½ per 1000 more than the proportion taken in Russia.

A VERDICT for £70 damages, for slander, has been given by a Cork jury to a national school teacher who had been called a "Fenian," by the wife of a proprietor of mills in that county.

THE DUBLIN CORPORATION has rescinded, by a majority of 28 to 23, the vote whereby Mr. Vokes Mackey was nominated Lord Mayor for 1869, on the ground that his nomination had been received as a declaration of the majority of the council and of the citizens in favour of the maintenance of Church ascendancy in Ireland.

A NURSING ASSOCIATION has been formed in Suffolk. Suitable women between twenty-five and forty years of age are to be trained, and the committee of the Bury Hospital have placed their wards at the disposal of the society.

THE NORTH-GERMAN LLOYD'S COMPANY is about to give a great extension to its Transatlantic navigation, by establishing a direct line of steamers between Bremen and New Orleans.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY HEAD OF HORNED CATTLE have been returned to Cork from Bristol, being altogether unsaleable in the English market, the scarcity of fodder and green crops having depressed the value of store cattle.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE OF 1866, it has been ascertained, is broken at about eighty-eight miles from Heart's Content. The steamer Hawk has been ordered to proceed forthwith to repair the damage, and it is expected that the cable will be restored in about a month.

M. DAVID D'ANGERS, son of the celebrated sculptor, was married last week at the Protestant church, the Oratoire, to Mlle. Huet, daughter of an eminent landscape-painter. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Athanasius Coquerel, and the attendance of friends was very large.

A PIECE OF IRON ORE was recently dug out of the bottom of the shaft, which is 74 ft. deep, at Mr. Brown's iron mine near Brixham, Devon, and on breaking it there crept out a lizard, 6 in. long, the belly yellow and the back of a brownish colour.

A MASSACRE OF FRENCH SOLDIERS took place, at Rach-Gia, in Cochinchina, in June last. Twenty-five men, forming an outpost, were surprised by 1000 Annamite robbers, and all, with one exception, slain. The French have avenged the massacre.

THE ESTATES OF PRINCE KARAGEORGEWITCH in Roumania have been sequestrated by virtue of the sentence passed upon him by the High Court of Justice for his alleged participation in the assassination of the late Prince Michael of Servia.

THE MONEY REMITTED TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER by sundry persons for conscience sake, in the financial year 1867-8, amounted to £4688. In the preceding year repentance produced a larger sum, £5087, which was more than the Chancellor's salary.

THE VACANCY in the list of Irish Representative Peers which was occasioned by the death of the Earl of Bantry is expected to be filled by the election of the Earl of Rosse, eldest son of the distinguished nobleman of that name, who died in the autumn of last year. His Lordship is in the twenty-eighth year of his age.

THE NEW REGULATION OF RAILWAYS ACT contains a section enacting that a railway company "knowingly" letting for hire a train for prize-fighters, shall be liable to a fine of £500, one-half to be given to the informer, and the other in aid of the county rate.

DR. RICHTER reports the Russian cattle to be suffering from a very wide-spread disease of the spleen. This disease is quite distinct from that known as the cattle plague. Great numbers of horses have perished of it, and in some instances it has attacked men with fatal effect.

MISS LILY MAXWELL and 1100 other women householders in the township of Chorlton-on-Medlock have sent in claims to be placed on the list of voters for the city of Manchester. At Marchington, a little country town in Staffordshire, eleven ladies have sent in claims to be placed on the list of voters for the county.

THE BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY have opened what bids fair to prove a most successful campaign at Cirencester, under the presidency of Earl Bathurst. The magnificent parish church, mainly of the fifteenth century architecture, and the other ancient buildings of this venerable town furnish rich stores of archaeological interest; but the adjacent neighbourhood is thickly studded with mansions and churches and ruins of the most remote dates.

THE LOUNGER IN NORTH WALES.

I AM once more in my old quarters—Bettws-y-Coed, North Wales—and yet not exactly in my old quarters, for last year my crib fronted a mountain clothed with pine-trees from the base to the top, whereas at this moment I am seated in a small room through the casement-window of which I can see right down the Conway valley. But it is not my intention this year to trouble my readers with descriptions of Welsh scenery. I suspect they may have come to think that they have had somewhat too much of that, and, suspecting this, I will forbear. There are, though, certain peculiarities in North Wales this season worth noticing. First, there is now a railway to Bettws. For some years there has been one from Llandudno junction on the Chester and Holyhead line to Llanrwst. This, since last autumn, has been continued to Bettws, so that now Londoners may come all the way by rail to this delightful place. Many people whom I have met denounce this desecration, and declare that Bettws is spoiled. I have little sympathy with these grumblers. A railway station is no ornament to this beautiful valley. The smoke of the engine and the shriek of the whistle, I confess, are out of harmony with the scenery around. But then—and this, I think, is sufficiently compensatory—how many thousands of people can see and enjoy the beauties of mountain scenery now who but for this railway could never get here! The poor people—comparatively poor—who flock here by excursion trains do not certainly add a charm to the place; but then what a pleasure—pleasure of the purest sort—it is for them to come! and ought not I to feel a pleasure in their delight? Besides, when an excursion train arrives I have only to mount a neighbouring hill, close behind my lodgings, descend into the valley beyond, and I am in a solitude as profound as that which brooded over the earth before man appeared. There is something selfish and ungenerous, not to say snobbish, in these grumblings. Some years ago, before railways were made, few of these grumblers could get here—the route was so long, the journey hither so expensive. The railway to Conway opened up the country to men of moderate means like myself; and I have no doubt that my Lord Top-Knot and the like of him turned up their aristocratic noses, and filled the air with their wailings, and anathematised the railways, when we intruded upon the sacred ground which they had so long monopolised. And now that a further extension of the railway has opened up the country to a still poorer class, we take up the lamentation, and, if truth must be told, cock up our noses in contempt. I say we, but so will not I.

On the contrary, I rejoice, and will rejoice, to see the sons of the forge and the loom, shopkeepers and city clerks, partaking of the rich feast of beauty which I have so often enjoyed. Would-be fashionable cynics stigmatise the artisans and shopkeepers as people of low and perverted tastes. Well, perhaps they are; but, if this be so, we ought to be glad to see them in such a scene as this, which they can hardly visit without getting their tastes improved and elevated. But, confound it, there is a brass band! Come, now, this is more than I bargained for. Ah! I see; it is a few wandering Germans. Well, they did not come by train, for I remember that I met them on the dusty road, last Saturday, struggling on hot and deliquescent, as Sydney Smith would have said, and evidently footsore. Poor things! These I could certainly spare; but they, too, must live, and so I will not complain even of them. You see, Mr. Editor, I am in a most charitable mood this morning.

The second peculiarity which I have to notice is this:—It is August, and only the beginning of it; but, looking through my open casement, I could fancy that it was October. Usually, at this date all the meadows, and mountains, and rocks are clothed in brilliant green; and you might travel a day's march and not find a dried bent or a yellow or brown leaf. But this year all is different; for here, too, the heat has been fierce; and here, too, rain, except in fitful showers at long intervals, like angels' visits, has not fallen for several months; and the consequence is that Nature has had to clothe herself in her autumnal garb at least two months too soon. The oaks, many of them, look as if they had been blasted by lightning. On some thousands there is not a green leaf left. The trembling aspens are all yellow, and even the pines, which generally keep their colour through the winter, show signs of decay. The grass in the meadows is not so brown as it is further south; but nowhere is to be found the luxuriant deep green with which the fields were carpeted this time last year, and, indeed, every year since I have known North Wales. The river channels are almost empty; in many places you may get over the Conway dryshod. The Lugwy, which is generally at this date a turbulent torrent, is a mere rivulet. The waterfalls are all failures. Scores of water-mills are standing idle; mines cannot be worked because the motive power that moved the pumps has utterly failed; and many of the lakes have sunk from 4 ft. to 6 ft. perpendicular. At Llyn Helai the miners built an embankment to dam up the water that it might be turned on to a wheel attached to pumps; the water has shrunk away at least one eighth of a mile from the embankment. At Trefriw there is a fall which usually, within a quarter of a mile, turns six mills; I doubt whether there is now water enough to keep one going; and in Bettws, where usually the water from the mountains keeps the houses supplied as if by waterworks, men have to fetch the precious fluid from a distance in carts; and, lastly, the heather, which in August ought to be all aglow, is, for the most part, literally burnt up. But enough of Wales.

Say not that the world does not move onwards. To me, when I look back to the period when I first entered the political arena—that is, when I first voted for a member of Parliament, in the year 1830—its advancement appears astonishing. What vast measures have been carried since then! How many idols have been smashed! How many scores of mere shadowy ideals have become realised facts! And the said world is still advancing, and, as it appears to me, with ever-increasing rapidity. I declare that the speed at which we are going at times almost takes my breath away. I scarcely ever open my paper now but I see an announcement of some wonderful change—some old idol, which used for long years to be worshipped devotedly, broken to pieces and contemptuously trampled under foot. Mr. Spurgeon has been the most prominent iconoclast this week. One notable article in the creed of the Evangelical world has for centuries been this—to wit, that Christians were not of the world, and therefore ought not to meddle with politics. It was my fortune, or misfortune, to live much in my young days in that said religious world, and how often have I heard Holy Writ distorted and perverted—though I knew it not then—to prove the dogma! Mr. Spurgeon has, with a contemptuous kick, smashed it for ever. No doubt it has long been dying, like many other dogmas; but now it is—thanks to courageous Mr. Spurgeon—dead past all hope of resurrection; and it was done by a word—plain, I may say, by an epigram. Perhaps some of my readers may think that this is but a little thing to accomplish. But if they knew as much of that religious world as some of us, they would see that it was a bold and great thing. Much more than is seen felt with that dogma. No doubt it is a grand truth that "the Christian is not of this world" and ought not to do as "the world" does. He ought not to lie and cheat in business, nor to use false balances, light weights, and small measures; nor must he set up rotten companies nor rig markets; nor, in short, be dishonest in word or deed. But the religious world for long centuries perverted the meaning of the text, and taught that Christian men should stand aloof from the world and its doings and take no part in the management of the world's affairs. On the contrary, says in substance the courageous Baptist minister of the Tabernacle, go into it, be in it though not of it, and interpenetrate it with your Christian life; irradiate it with your example, and, to use a Scripture phrase, "salt" it with your influence to preserve it from destruction. I have got to have respect for Mr. Spurgeon. His answer to the Bishop of Oxford was capital, and this iconoclastic blow at a dogma that has long held thousands of good men in bondage is worthy of all praise.

Then we have the Wesleyan Conference on the move, and it has got at least thus far, if no further: It will do nothing to influence the electors belonging to the Wesleyan Connection in the coming struggle; issue no instructions to its preachers; publish no manifesto to its members. What a change is this since 1830! In the great struggle of that year "the Hundred Hundred Popes of England's Jesuitry," as the Anti-Corn-Law Rhymers called the Conference, exercised all their enormous influence against the Reformers; and consequently the preachers to a man, and nine tenths of their hearers, were to be found in the ranks of the enemies of progress. A Wesleyan minister whom I know openly and publicly exhorted those of his congregation who had incautiously promised to vote for the Liberal candidate to revoke their promises; whilst another travelled all day on Sunday to give his vote against Lord John Russell. The noble Lord was turned out by one vote, and this was the last vote given against him. But for many years Liberalism has been slowly percolating into and spreading like leaven through the Connection; and now, though the Wesleyans still affect to belong to the English Church, and have always professed to be zealous advocates of Establishments, the Conference stands aside when a Church Establishment is in danger, and at least refuses to interfere to preserve it. Is not this, too, a sign of the times?

I see that a number of the subordinate members of the Government are accepting appointments in our colonies and dependencies. What does this signify? Is the Cabinet conscious that its lease of life is but short, making hay while the sun shines, and providing for its dependents while the opportunity is allowed to it? or are said dependents, feeling that they are embarked in a sinking ship, making all haste to get out of it, as rats are said to do in like circumstances? Whatever be the meaning of the move, it is certain that it is in progress on a rather extensive scale. Mr. Du Cane goes to Tasmania, Sir James Fergusson to South Australia, Lord Mayo (it is said) to India, and Lord John Manners is talked of as the successor of Lord Monck in the Dominion of Canada. I will not criticise these appointments further than to say that I hope the days of rewarding political adherents in this way, whether by Conservatives or Liberals, are nearly at an end. It is most unfair to the colonies to have men named as governors who have no real knowledge of their affairs, and it is equally unfair to public servants who have spent their lives in subordinate posts in that department to be thus superseded in the higher posts by mere hangers-on of party. The Conservatives, by-the-by, have had a wonderful slice of luck in colonial as in legal and ecclesiastical patronage. In addition to the above appointments, they have had the naming of Lord Belmore to the Governorship of New South Wales, at a salary of £7000 a year; of Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald to Bombay, at £12,000 a year; and of Mr. Pope Hennessy to the Governorship of Labuan and the Consul-Generalship of Borneo, at a combined salary of £1300 a year. Fortunate men are the Conservatives!

Although far away from the scene of action, and no way interested personally in the dispute, I am glad to perceive that events are proving that the raising of their fares by the South of England railways was a mistake. The newspapers and inhabitants of Brighton complain bitterly of the advance, and it is stated that an effort will be made to promote a new line of railway between that town and the metropolis. The Corporation is said to be in favour of such a measure, and many of the leading landholders along the route have promised their co-operation. The general augmentation of the fares all along the London, Brighton, and South Coast line is relied upon to give a stimulus to this movement. Then, what will tell with the shareholders, the rise in fares on the South Eastern, Brighton, and Chatham lines, has been followed by a decline in revenue. The following are the returns for last week, as compared with the corresponding period in 1867, when the rates of charge were very considerably lower, three distinct advances having been made since then:—

	1868.	1867.	Decrease.
South-Eastern	32,893	34,350	1,457
Brighton	33,497	36,409	2,912
Chatham and Dover .. .	16,042	17,499	1,457

In contrast with this result it is curious to note that two north of London suburban lines, on which the fares have not been increased, show a small augmentation in the same period. These are the figures:—

	1868.	1867.	Increase.
North London	6,428	6,094	334
Metropolitan	4,893	4,560	243

Can directors and shareholders read the lesson taught by these facts?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In *Macmillan* I meet, for the first time in the open fields of literature, Mr. —. No, I see the name is not appended; though I feel sure I saw it in an advertisement. Now, how is that? At all events, the essay on the "Quarrels of Friends" is a good one. Some of the remarks are very acute indeed—e.g., "That versatility, or power of succeeding with all kinds of men, of which we hear a good deal, is, nine times out of ten, only the art of concealing this want"—namely, the want of sympathy. Mr. Joseph Bennett contributes a most interesting paper on the "Autograph of Handel's 'Messiah';" and Miss A. J. Clough one on "Primary Education," to which I would earnestly call attention. Nothing is more disgustingly absurd than the way in which children are now taught to read and write. But I go in, myself, for the idea of Comte, that children should not study at all—neither reading, nor writing, nor anything else—till they have shed their first teeth.

In *Belgravia* this month there is little to criticise. It has all the usual points of interest, and there is plenty of matter for the money.

In *St. Pauls* there is a most admirable paper upon "The Electoral Outlook," in which the following conclusions are come to:—That there will be a large Liberal majority in the new Parliament; that these Liberals will remain united till the Irish Church question is settled; but that the politics of the new Parliament will be tinged with the inevitable practical Conservatism of men of wealth and station. To this there is, I think, much to be added. One thing is that, in the newly-awakened rage for Government interference, Tories and Liberals will often find themselves side by side, fighting against true Liberal principles. You see, there is the new sweetness-and-light "Liberal," and he is worse than a Tory. The Tory chastised us with whips; he will chastise us with scorpions, if he can get hold of them.

In *Tinsley's* the author of "Guy Livingstone" begins a new story, "Breaking a Butterfly; or, Blanche Ellerslie's Ending." The "Criticism on Contemporaries," beginning with Mr. Swinburne, will evidently contain some very dexterous and effective writing. But all this is of no use unless you give us a canon by which we may determine when art offends against moral truth.

The *St. James's* improves. Think of three stories, all of them good—"A Life's Assize," "Hirell," and "Bisset's Youth," the last by Mr. Hannay; and, besides these, several essays and sketches! True, the *St. James's* is a Tory magazine, and I hate a Tory with a bitter and grievous hate; but, for all that, I read "Hirell" and "A Life's Assize" with pleasure. The trial-scene in the latter, and the Welsh figures in the former, are particularly effective.

Good Words is better than ever, in the number of its illustrations and the variety of the matter. An excellent, a delightful number! But the rising of the curtain for another act of "The Woman's Kingdom" discloses a very poor, outworn trick indeed! Mr. Pinwell, in the *Sunday Magazine*, is, once more, as he can be, great. The woodcut to *Mme. De Krudener* may be read like a book.

It is long since I said anything of *Aunt Judy*. But, to quote the title of an exquisite and touching story of Andersen's in a recent number, "Kept Close is Not Forgotten." I am glad to

meet Mrs. Overthway again every month, and ought before now to have praised the paper on "Pedro," which—nay, who—was a donkey. It was full of rich and tender humour.

"The Society of Virtue at Rome," by M. Goldschmidt, reprinted from the *Victoria*, is too much of a fragment; but it is a most curious and delightful fragment, in which the profoundest things are said in the most childlike way. Let me cordially recommend it.

The "Boating-Life-at-Oxford" papers, reprinted from *London Society*, are also worth reading—at least, the "Bump Supper" is, as I said at the time it appeared.

The *Student* is, as it always is, excellent in matter; and sumptuous—not to say scrumptious—in its illustrations.

The *Floral World*, too, has this month a pretty picture of a rose, which is called the "Miss Ingram Rose," or, more briefly, it seems, "Miss Ingram." Says the editor, "We leave our figure of Miss Ingram to speak for itself as to size, form, and colour; but we must add that we have seen it sufficiently frequent to be well assured of its sterling qualities, both in respect of hardness and freedom of growth and bloom, that it is one of the very best of this interesting group of English-raised roses."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

If we are to have vamped-up French melodramas at every London theatre, by all means let us have Mr. Dion Boucicault to doctor them for us. He is not a great author, although success emboldens him to write, as if he were, in leaded type to popular newspapers; but he is a very clever man, and knows exactly what will hit—not the public, but that particular section of the public which nowadays frequents our theatres. Publishers—that is to say, publishers who have made a success with novels of the vulgarist order—are fond of telling authors that they are the worst critics in the world; which, being interpreted, means that when any worthless, catchy, low-priced book will hit the public, it is useless to spend money over high-priced original matter. Mr. Boucicault, I fancy, acts pretty much on this sound commercial principle. He knows that real railway trains and "Tommy Dodd" are about up to the standard of the ordinary intellect of playgoers of 1868, and he gives them a vulgar, claptrap piece accordingly. Mr. Boucicault is quite right. I don't blame him. Only, don't let him talk, in leaded type, about "art" and "literature," and "blow"—as Yankees would say—about what he has done, and can do, for the stage and dramatic authors. He is doing literally nothing for the stage by such pieces as "After Dark;" he is doing nothing for those dramatic authors who are above writing up to the scenshifter and the gasman. Mr. Boucicault, in his latest production at the PRINCESS'S, has given us a capital specimen of his inimitable stage-cookery. He has boiled down an old French melodrama, "Les Oiseaux de Troie" of MM. D'Ennery and Grange, mixed with some new situations and effects, into a very palatable stew, and served it up, with music-hall vulgarity of the Tommy-Dodd order, to suit the palates of his theatrical patrons. Commercially speaking, he is quite right; artistically speaking, he is quite wrong; for "After Dark" is so catching and interesting, and well done in a mechanical point of view, that it is likely to hold the town for hundreds of nights, and by its success contribute fatally to the ultimate degradation of dramatic art. It is hardly worth while going into the story in which the usual charges of vice and villany are rang ad nauseam. Forgery—how sick I am getting of the forged bill which delivers indiscreet youth into the hands of men to whom forgery is a joke in the catalogue of crime! Suicide—how sick I am of the interesting girl who prays in the moonlight and throws herself headlong into the river! [Why, we have got two editions of her at this moment, with bran-new lime-light effects, at two leading, fashionable theatres in London.] Desertion, adultery, attempted murder, and infamy of every kind, tempered with milk-and-water virtue, occur as usual in "After Dark," which, as its title implies, depicts, for the edification of an educated and well-dressed audience, the very lowest of low life. Silver bells and thieves free-and-easy, the dark arches and the dry arches, and cut-throats and drunkards, and sots and (horror of horrors!) popular comic singers at a music-hall, are introduced in turn; but the grand sensation introduction is the good old Victorian effect—I think that is the word—of a railway train passing over the stage and the virtuous hero being rescued from the fangs of a locomotive. "Thank you for nothing," will be the verdict of the playgoing public. A similar "effect" was presented three years ago at the Victoria Theatre, New Cut, which excellent establishment will, no doubt, supply us with many more. I don't for a moment deny that the whole thing is excellently done at the Princess's. The express-train scene is marvellously managed; the scenery, as a rule—notably the river picture under Blackfriars Bridge—does Mr. Lloyd great credit; the "supers" are drilled to a nicety. In a word, all Mr. Boucicault's tact and judgment are displayed to their utmost advantage. As I said before, if we are to have this kind of trash, let us have Mr. Boucicault to sit up night after night over it and nurse it day after day, as Mr. Vining kindly informed the audience he had done; and then let him retire to Brighton and smoke his cigar on the Esplanade—I have Mr. Vining's public authority for all this—and console himself with the thought that he has again "hit" the public, and is the richer by, I am afraid to say how many thousand pounds. On the whole, the acting was careful. It was never bad and never brilliant. To my mind, the best played part was a policeman, by Mr. W. D. Gresham. This was really good, and an excellent bit of character acting. Mr. Shore was very goody-goody, as the virtuous ex-Captain of Light Dragoons, and looked irritatingly correct in his frock-coat and shiny hat, which somehow seemed wrong in the colony of scampdom in which he moved. However, his great scene with Walter Lacy—the best scene in the play, I think—went off capitally, and Mr. Shore entered into it with great spirit. Mr. H. J. Montague looked the young forging Baronet as no one on the stage could have looked it, and I only trust that he will steer clear of the shoals of staginess in these reiterated heart-broken characters. It is trying, I know, to continue playing on the same string. Mr. Dominick Murray played a Jew snob, and made him an Irish Jew snob into the bargain, if such a horrible compound can exist. Mr. Murray never forgets Feeney or the numerous Irish informers with which he has favoured us. Mr. Vining and Mr. Walter Lacy both played important characters, and played them well; but they were both exactly like Mr. Vining and Mr. Walter Lacy. I believe that they will resemble those gentlemen until the end of time. One young lady, Miss Trissy Marston, tried to do her best; the other, Miss Rose Leclercq, was very nearly uncommonly good. She has greatly improved, and promises to be a valuable actress. Her figure and face are vastly in her favour, and one or two little touches gave me the well-known cold shiver in the back. I always consider that a good sign. I am happy to say that a very bad music-hall singer, who came to the Princess's in the music-hall scene to sing a very idiotic song, was hissed. It was well that the only hisses of the evening were so deservedly and judiciously distributed.

THE HOP PLANTATIONS.—ROCHESTER, Aug. 11.—The majority of the grounds throughout the hop-growing districts of Kent continue to look exceedingly unpromising, the protracted drought having had a most disastrous effect on them. Already, in several of the gardens, the hops are fast going off, while on some of the light thin soils the yield is not expected to average 1 cwt. per acre. In many of the grounds the plant has been attacked with red spider, and here the bine is looking thin and meagre, with only a very small show of hops. On some of the low, heavy soils, where the ground has been highly cultivated, the crop is expected to be a very good one, a yield of from 15 cwt. to 1 ton per acre being spoken of; but this return is quite exceptional, there being many plantations in which the growth will not average more than 1 cwt. per acre. The showers of yesterday and to-day have proved very beneficial, the plants just now only wanting some heavy rains to bring the hops to maturity. In some of the gardens the planters have already commenced picking, with the hope of securing the few hops which remain before they get worse. In the neighbouring county of Sussex the condition of the hops is varied, in some grounds there being a prospect of a fair average crop, while in others the yield will be very small. The hop market is firm, with prices tending upwards.

CONSUL CAMERON.

We this week publish the portrait of a man whose name has been much before the public for the last two years in connection with recent events in Abyssinia, and who only reached England a week or so since.

Consul Cameron, who is apparently about forty years of age, and wears the general aspect of a soldier who has seen much service in the tropics, is still suffering from the cruel treatment to which he has been subjected. Tall in figure and strong in frame, Consul Cameron was fitted to endure almost any amount of privation and hardship; but no human being could undergo the trials which he experienced during the last six months of his imprisonment without serious physical consequences. Chained hands and feet together, he was deprived of all exercise, and for nearly six months was in a recumbent position, from which he could not escape. This confinement, together with other indignities—scarcity of food and clothing, uncertainty as to his ultimate fate—told upon his iron frame and reduced him to a state of weakness. The wonder is that the prisoners, with the knowledge which they possessed of the bloodthirsty character of King Theodore and the almost inaccessible nature of the place of their confinement, did not die of sheer despair. It was not, however, until Consul Cameron was released that the full extent of his injuries was known. Immediately his chains were knocked off and the victorious army commenced its return home, he was compelled to ride on the back of a mule in stages of about eighteen or twenty miles. The effect of this somewhat violent exercise upon his frame was too great; for a few days after leaving Magdala for the seaboard his lower limbs became paralysed, and he had to be conveyed to Annesley Bay in a litter. The voyage from Alexandria has had a beneficial influence, and Mr. Cameron hopes, with the medical treatment which he will now be able to procure, soon to enjoy a perfect restoration to health. His principal attendant is a shrewd, intelligent Abyssinian youth, about seventeen years of age, who has left his native home to follow the fortunes of his master in the capacity of man-servant or valet.

OYSTER CULTURE.

The cultivation of the oyster, so far as improving its flavour, increasing its meat, at the same time arresting the development of the shell and giving it an elegant form, has been carried on in this and other countries from time immemorial, the natural beds affording ample supplies to the dredgers. The brood oysters, dredged from the sea, are brought to places found well adapted for fattening purposes and there laid down until fit for the market.

This system has been always followed and found to work ad-



COLONEL CAMERON, LATE BRITISH CONSUL IN ABYSSINIA.

(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN WATKINS).

mirably until within the last ten years, when, to the astonishment of the dredgers, the natural beds were discovered to be worked out; and although recent writers, witnesses before Parliamentary Committees, and the Commissioners' reports have endeavoured

to make out some extraordinary morbid influences to be at work detrimental to the oyster, the real fact is upon the surface. The demand for oysters has increased with the population and the facilities for traffic; the price has increased; the dredgers have increased in numbers, and, after having exhausted the home beds, they have done the same with the Scotch and Irish beds, until at length all the available oysters have been eaten up, and none are left to re-stock the beds. That is the whole secret—the demand has exceeded the supply.

Now, our neighbours the French appear to have recognised this fact before we did. Whilst we were puzzling our brains to discover the cause of the supposed disease that was destroying our natural oyster beds, a mason at Rivedoux, on the Ile de Ré, in the Bay of Biscay, as far back as 1834, conceived the idea of cultivating the oyster from seeing several young oysters adhere to and grow on stones in the neighbourhood of his residence, but the weak state of his constitution and the want of means retarded the carrying out of his idea until 1858. It was at this period that he sank a park of twenty yards square. To form it he gathered as many stones as he could, which were already stocked with mother oysters. This was in July. What was his astonishment when in April, 1859, after having waited with the most intense impatience, he found all these stones literally covered with thousands of young oysters. In 1860 Hyacinthe Bœuf sold £6 worth, then he doubled the size of his park. In 1861 he sold £24 worth of oysters; and again increased his park to forty yards in length by thirty yards in width. In 1862 he sold £40 worth of oysters; and then made a still further enlargement of his park, which now measures 70 yards long by 35 wide. In 1863, at the end of April, his last sale brought him £24; and by the following October a small portion of his park, ten yards square, brought him in £24. So that in the course of that year his sales realised £48 at the very least; and from the establishment of his beds, in 1858—that is to say, in five years—he realised the sum of £118. The park of Hyacinthe Bœuf, like every other park, is only productive on one third of its extent each year, since it requires three years for the oysters to arrive at maturity.

This was the first effort to assist by artificial aid the vast reproductiveness of the oyster; but similar means have since been employed in the Bay of Arachon and elsewhere, not the least remarkable being the beds belonging to the South of England Oyster Company, at Hayling.

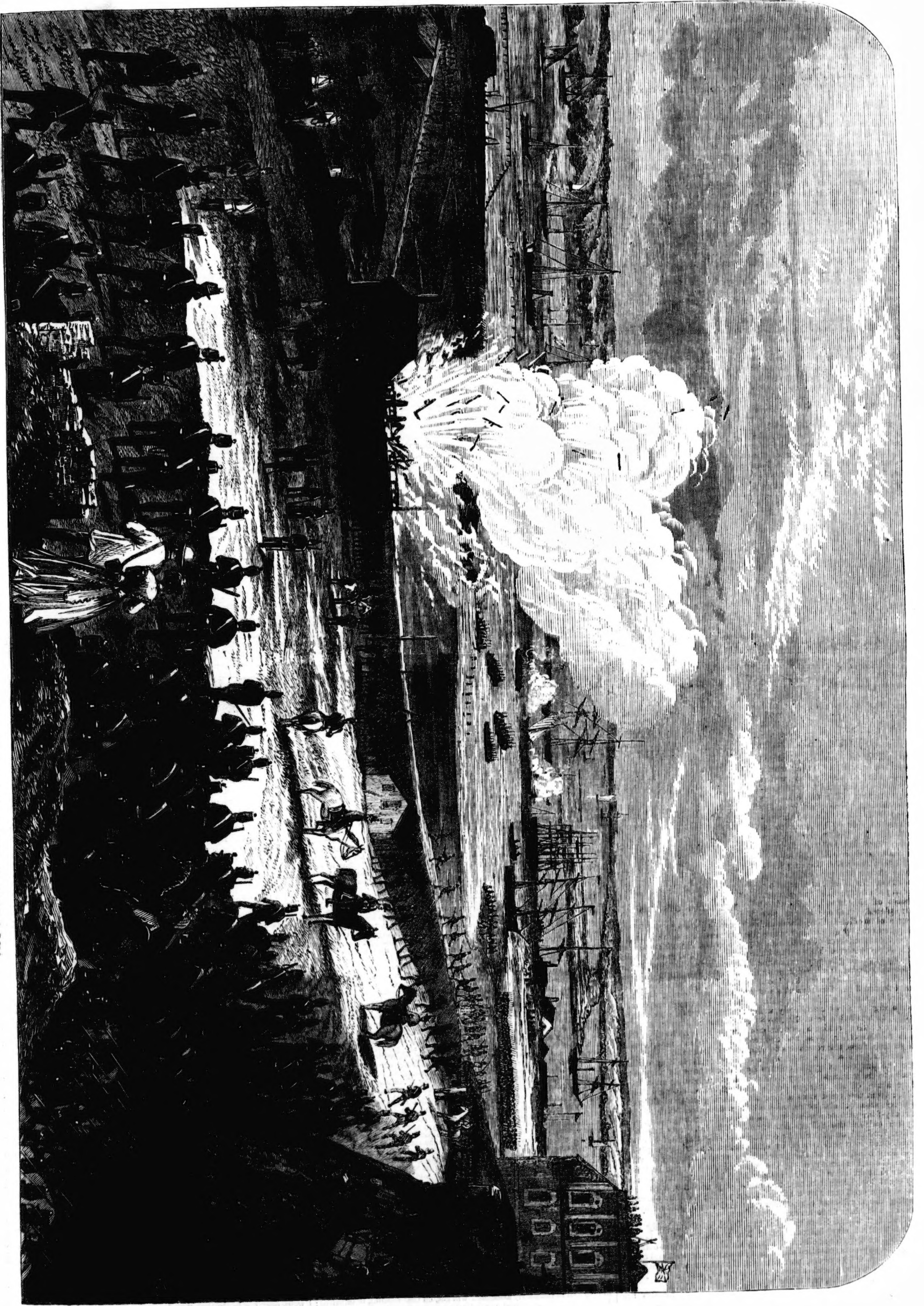
The South of England Oyster Company was registered under the Limited Liability Act, Oct. 20, 1865, for the purpose of cultivating oysters on certain mudlands surrounding the island of Hayling.

The island of Hayling is situated in the hundred of Bosmere,



OYSTER CULTURE AT SOUTH HAYLING: THE SALTURNS.

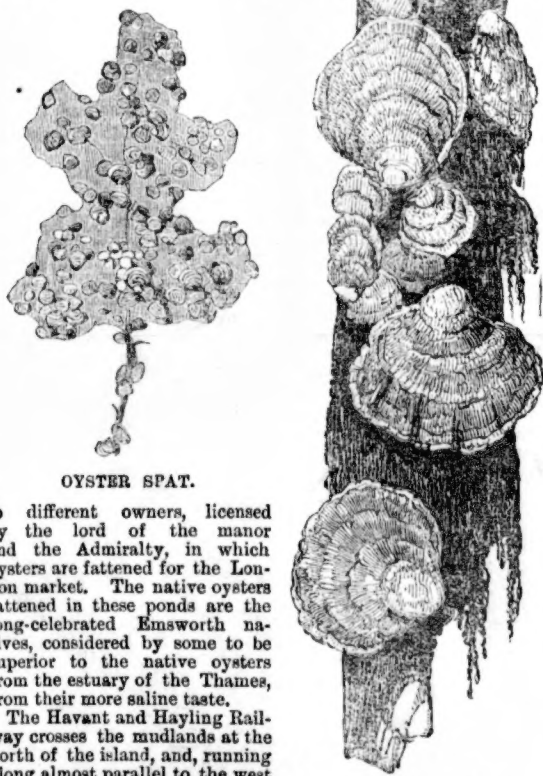
THE SIEGE OPERATIONS AT CHATTAM ON WEDNESDAY, AUG. 5: EXPLOSION OF A MINE BY THE ATTACKING FORCES.



in the county of Southampton, an inroad of the sea forming Chichester Bay in the south-eastern portion of Hampshire, and south-western portion of Sussex; its southern coast is nearly opposite the eastern end of the Isle of Wight, and it is bathed by the waters of the English Channel; the tidal waters surrounding it on the north-east and west forming the estuary called Langston and Chichester Harbours. Out of Langston Channel there runs a small one into the upper end of Portsmouth Harbour; there is no river running into the bay, a few small streams only. The whole bay, having an acreage of about 10,000 square acres, consists of—with the exception of the deep channels—extensive mudlands dry at low water, and when covered the water may be looked upon as nearly pure sea water.

Geologically, the island forms a portion of the Hampshire basin; the bottoms of the deep channels, where scoured by the water, consists of chalk and flint; the island within the historic period has probably been only separated from the Isle of Wight by a river. In the reign of Richard II. a large portion of the southern coast of the island was submerged; in the year 1839, in the reign of Edward III., the greater part of the island was inundated, and the parish church, which had been built in the middle of the island, was separated so far from the remaining southern coast that a ship of large burden could pass between. It is computed that nine miles of the southern portion of the island, by five miles in breadth, have at various times been destroyed by the encroachments of the sea. My Lord's Pond, an estuary covered at high tides, was once the fish-ponds connected with the hall; so that the sea has encroached on all sides. Upon the chalk tertiary deposits are found, consisting of marly clays, pipe clay, red clay, sand, mud, &c. The geological formation resembles very much the estuary of the Thames.

The proprietors of oyster layings in the neighbourhood of Hayling, are accustomed to purchase oysters of the dredgers who enter the harbours from time to time during the season, and laying them down in small beds made in the shallow channels and foreshores of the island. Small banks of mud, about 1 ft. in height, are raised, either across the channels or, of an oblong shape, along the foreshores; so that at low tide the oysters are covered by about 1 ft. of water. By this means the poor oysters brought in from the channels are found rapidly to "fish"—that is, fatten—and the difference between the buying and selling prices (the oysters having laid in the beds some months) is found to average some 100 per cent gross profit. On the west side of the island there were several large layings belonging to Mr. Crouch, since removed, the beds now being inclosed by the railway. On the east side of the island, in My Lord's Pond, in Gutrer, there are some twenty or thirty small beds belonging



OYSTER SPAT.

YEARLING OYSTERS

to different owners, licensed by the lord of the manor and the Admiralty, in which oysters are fattened for the London market. The native oysters fattened in these ponds are the long-celebrated Emsworth natives, considered by some to be superior to the native oysters from the estuary of the Thames, from their more saline taste.

The Havant and Hayling Railway crosses the mudlands at the north of the island, and, running along almost parallel to the west coast of the island, will, when completed, inclose nearly 900 acres of mudland, the railway embankment is joined to the island at the north by a short spur from the conformation of the land, a short embankment of about ninety yards would inclose an area of about seven acres. This embankment was made and another bank formed inclosing twenty-seven acres. These are used as breeding and fattening beds. This bank is of the same height as the railway, having a walk at the top 8 ft. broad, and having a slope on each side of 1 ft. in 3 ft., faced on the seaward side with chalk pitching, affording a most efficient sea-wall. Thus two reservoirs are formed, incloing 45 acres completely under control; any depth of water thought advisable from 1 ft. to 8 ft. can be retained; also, by means of the trunks, a current can always be kept flowing from one to the other, from the external waters to the reservoirs at high tide, from the reservoirs to mudlands at low tide.

The Salterns on the eastern side of Hayling have been utilised for the purpose of oyster culture by the company as they were ready to their hands. They consist of a pond having an area of four acres, of an average depth when filled at spring tides of 4 ft.; from the pond runs a long adit, leading to the Saltern, an oblong area of six acres, embanked round, and divided into twenty-four pans of a quarter of an acre each. For the purpose of oyster culture the Saltern has been divided into two halves by a longitudinal embankment; on the west side the half has been subdivided into seven beds by embankments at right angles to the long bank, each of these seven beds receive a supply of water from the adit running along the west side, which can be turned on or shut off at will. The eastern half is divided into sections by eight longitudinal banks, 220 yards long and 8 ft. high, separated from each other by a space of ten yards; so that water entering the north-east corner flows up and down, guided by the banks, and then finds an exit.

Beds 1, 2, 3, and 4, are shingled to a depth of 6 in., being on a hard puddled clay bottom. Bed No. 1 has its whole bottom covered with oyster-shells, and a large number of broken common red chimney-pots scattered about in it; towards the west end of the bed, about 4000 oysters, native to the Langston and Emsworth Channels, were placed side by side in rows, and a few larger ones scattered about, one to the square foot.

In bed No. 2, upon the shingled bottom cemented hurdles are placed, forming partial diaphragms across the beds, so as to give rise to a current; in the course of the current tiles are placed upon the concave side downwards, another tile is placed upon the convex

side of the two parallel tiles, forming a species of honeycomb; beneath each tile one large Jersey oyster is placed.

Bed No. 3 is plain shingle; one large Jersey oyster to the square foot; a few hurdles placed.

THE SIEGE OPERATIONS AT CHATHAM.

IN our last week's Number we published an account of the siege operations at Chatham on the 5th inst. In addition to that account, and as explanatory of the Engraving we now publish, we need only remind our readers that the general scheme of the supposed attack was this:—The enemy, hearing that a force was marching to the relief of the beleaguered fortress, was supposed to have determined upon an immediate assault. This plan was to assault by four columns, which should have operated simultaneously; but, in consequence of the want of a sufficient force, the attacks were obliged to be delivered in succession. The first was made by boats along St. Mary's Creek; but as the flotilla advanced a couple of torpedoes were suddenly exploded. This was really a pretty sight. Each submarine mine sent up a column of water that put to shame the great fountain at Sydenham; and the suddenness with which it leaped into the air was as impressive as it was beautiful. Of course the boats were kept at a safe distance; but the spectator was represented to assume that the mines had been sprung exactly at the right moment, and that the flotilla had vanished into space. The war then shifted from St. Mary's Creek, along the front of the fort, to the extreme right, which was assumed to be bounded by Prince Henry's bastion. Here a regular approach was supposed to have been made, and the more advanced parallels had actually been executed. A mine was sprung, which produced a kind of sandy imitation of the fountain in St. Mary's Creek, and then burst forth a continuous spatter of musketry, accentuated by the solemn boom of cannon. Nothing particular, however, came of all this, which was probably intended chiefly to distract the attention of the garrison from Prince Henry's bastion. Suddenly a strong body of the enemy's men was seen issuing from their covered way; rushing across the open, they placed ladders along the steep slope of the work. Of course, the garrison had the strongest possible objection to this proceeding, and peppered the ascending party most handsomely; but the said party was accompanied by plenty of skirmishers and supports, and now, for the first time, the spectators were afforded some idea of the tremendous efficacy of the Snider. The garrison had also the best of this encounter, for they had on their right flank a gun mounted on a Moncrieff carriage, which the enemy found it impossible to silence; and so, after a time, he thought it desirable to retreat. The last seen of him was his men flying helter-skelter across the field, and dragging their ladders after them. But the inexpugnable fate of the garrison approaches. The attack shifts back to the left; and close by St. Mary's Creek the enemy blow up a stockade, rush in, and drive back the garrison along the front of the casemates. They retire in good order, and contest every inch of the ground; but the conviction gradually forces itself on the minds of the spectators that Chatham has fallen, and that they are at the mercy of a foreign foe.

VENETIAN GLASS.—As the art of glassmaking was introduced into modern Europe by the Venetians, Mr. Herries, her Majesty's Secretary of Embassy and Legation at Florence, in his report just issued, has furnished some statistics relating to the production of Venetian glass. He states that, besides discovering the art of rendering glass colourless by means of manganese, the Venetians also enjoyed the monopoly of mirrors, the silversing of which was a secret long kept from other countries. These mirrors, however, have now lost their reputation, as foreign competitors produce larger plates. Glass beads are still made in considerable quantities for exportation. Venetian enamels have always been famous, and among the peculiar productions of Venice may be reckoned the beautiful composition called "aventurine," the secret of which is said to be in the possession of a single manufacturer. The great glassworks are at Murano, one of the islands of the Lagoon. The number of persons employed in glassmaking at Murano and Venice is 5000, of whom one third are men, and two thirds women and children. The annual cost of the substances employed in the manufacture is estimated at about 7,000,000*fr.* In the East there is a constant demand for beads and other articles known as "conterie." There are six glassworks in Turin, three in Genoa, five in Milan, thirteen in Florence, eleven in Naples, and twenty in Venice. These fifty-eight works produce articles of the annual value of 10,276,725*fr.*

ILL-NATURED PROVERBS.—Unamiable features and characteristics often stamp the proverbs of particular nations, and such are shy of reproducing. Thus the Italian makes a merit of revenge, and his proverbs teem with justifications of deceit and guile to accomplish the gratification of that passion. Archbishop Trench gives us this instance, "Wait time and place to take your revenge; for 'tis never well to be in a hurry;" and it may be paralleled by handfuls of such as these—"He who cannot revenge himself is weak, he who will not is contemptible; and "Who offends, writes on sand, who is offended, on marble." Perhaps, too, in these which follow, "Thank you, pretty pussy, was the death of my cat," and "He laughs well who laughs last," there lurks a justification of glozing words and of "biding one's time, for the evil purpose of compassing the most unchristian of triumphs. In Spanish proverbs the worst feature seems to be a tendency to sneer at womankind, the gallantries of his countrymen having rendered the Spaniard sceptical as to female worth and virtue. "A woman and a mule," he says, "must be made handsome by the month," i.e., "with good keeping." "For whom," he asks, "does the blind man's wife paint herself?" Apropos of the birth of a daughter, he has the proverbial expression, "Alas! father, another daughter is born to you," "daughter" being apparently a synonym for "misfortune." But he out-herods Herod when he cherishes a saw like this on the same topic—"Three daughters and a mother are four devils for the father."—*Quarterly Review*, new number.

THE BEST TIME FOR BATHING.—The robust and practised bather will suit his convenience or his pleasure generally with impunity. But the novice should observe certain rules, until he finds he can do without them. The first in importance is, that the sea-water should not be too cold, or, if cold, his own person should be warm at the time he plunges into the water. Now, the water will be the warmest when the tide has just come in, and especially if it be a sandy beach upon which the rays of a hot sun have been playing some hours. There is often a difference in this case of five or six degrees between high water and ebb tide. Hence it follows that the forenoon, or about noon if the tide serve, is the best time. A bath before breakfast, or late in the evening, is only suitable, or even safe, for the robust, and those whose reaction is vigorous. The stomach should have been already fortified with breakfast, and for delicate persons a glass of wine is no bad preparation for the bath. *Never bathe on a full meal.* It is of importance where children and weak persons are concerned, that they should have their dip during the flow, and not during the ebb of the tide; not only because there are less impurities on the beach during the flow than the ebb tide, but because the force of the waves often overthrows them. But if overset during the flow of the tide, they are propelled towards the shore and into shallow water; they accordingly find themselves in safety, and may laugh at the mishap. But if the same thing occurs when the sea is "going out," they may be sucked back by a receding wave, and, losing their footing, may get terribly frightened on finding themselves carried almost out of their depth.—*Dr. Strang, in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for August.*

SIR ROUNDELL PALMER AND THE IRISH CHURCH.—Sir Roundell Palmer, in his address to the electors of Richmond, in Yorkshire, says:—"With regard to the Irish Church, it may perhaps be sufficient now to say that, feeling the magnitude of all questions connected with the relations of Church and State, I have been unwilling to commit myself to any general declaration of policy without having before me some practical measure in a definite form. I yield to no man in personal and political attachment to Mr. Gladstone. I am anxiously desirous to see the causes of popular discontent in Ireland removed or mitigated, and my wish would be to support, as far as possible, any measures by which that object may be likely to be attained, even though they should involve changes of importance affecting the political connection between the Church in Ireland and the State, or the appropriation of Church revenues to purposes of general public utility, in parts of Ireland where, from local circumstances, it may be apparent that they are disproportionate to the wants of any resident Protestant population deriving benefit from them. But acquiescing, as I do, in what appears to be the almost unanimous opinion of the country against any public endowment of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, I consider that the provision now made for the Established Church ought to be allowed to remain in those parishes and places where its endowments are not disproportionate to the wants of a resident Protestant population. If, on this subject, my views should differ from those which may ultimately prevail with the majority of the Liberal party, I shall greatly regret it. But my general confidence in and regard for those with whom I have been so long and so intimately associated will not, on that account, be impaired; I look forward to continued cordial co-operation with them in the wide field of legal and administrative reforms, in the promotion of popular education and social progress, and on other great subjects of domestic and foreign policy, on which we are agreed."

PARLIAMENTARY PETITIONS.

(From the "Times.")

PETITIONS to Parliament are very nearly useless, but they may serve in some faint degree to measure the interest felt by the underlings of party, if not by the public, in the questions of the day; while the stray memorials which are independently presented may indicate some of the questions of the future. If the number of petitioners could be implicitly trusted, we might suppose that the Intoxicating Liquors (Sunday) Bill had divided the attention of Parliament and the country during the last Session with the Irish Church. Those who note the phenomena of the streets are aware that at one time almost every public-house in London had announcements in its windows that petitions against this bill lay within for signature, while the promoters of the measure convened meetings and seized on Dissenting chapels to procure signatures in support of it. The analysis of the petitions of the past Session tells us what came of their exertions. 476,942 persons petitioned Parliament against the bill for stopping the sale of liquors, against 331,425 who petitioned in its favour. It appears, however, that 161,201 persons petitioned generally for the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, and though it is possible that some of these petitioners are found among the 331,425 who petitioned in favour of the bill, the advocates of the measure will doubtless be prepared to prove that their allies exceeded in number the opposite army. It may be that there are some persons whose opinion on the policy of the bill would be influenced by the result of the comparison, and to them we leave the task of verifying it. The question of the Irish Church is not embarrassed by the complication of petitions differing in form but with the same object. It appears that 573,019 prayed for the disendowment of the Church of Ireland, and 540,969 signed petitions in its favour. Moreover, there were 275 petitions for disendowment signed officially or presented under seal, against 149 on the side of defence similarly authenticated. The balance of numbers thus decisively indicated will give encouragement to those who are strengthened by the consciousness of popular support; while purer patriots, who fought against the Irish Establishment as a monument of injustice and wrong, will not be less hearty in the struggle because it happens that numbers are on their side. The steady progress of the movement towards the removal of privileges is shown by the fact that 23,213 petitioned in favour of Mr. Coleridge's Oxford and Cambridge Bill, as opposed to 8311 petitioners against it. One very comprehensive petition was addressed to the House of Commons, praying in the same breath for the passing of Mr. Coleridge's Bill, the Church Rates Abolition Bill, and the Suspensory Bill. Two petitions on ecclesiastical subjects show the lengths to which men may run when they cast themselves loose from all considerations of common sense. One person prayed Parliament to extend the powers of the Houses of Convocation, and two persons prayed for the disestablishment of the English Church.

Reform engaged some attention in Parliament last Session, and petitions upon it were of course sufficiently numerous. It is remarkable that the alteration of the law which elicited the greatest show of support was the proposal to extend the franchise to women, in favour of which there were 49,132 petitioners. Near the other end of the scale was the ballot, nineteen persons only having signed a petition in favour of Mr. Henry Berkeley's project. It may be said that the ballot was not a Parliamentary question, but neither were women's electoral rights, and the sound deduction is that there is a great number of persons who are zealously bent on the political enfranchisement of women, while there are very few who really care about the ballot. More than 7000 persons petitioned in favour of that removal of the disabilities of revenue officers which was accomplished towards the close of the Session. But we fear it is not in pure questions of politics that the mass of men can be interested. They are stirred by some threatened invasion of their comfort, like the Sunday Liquor Bill; they may be excited by such a controversy as the fight over the Irish Church; but their action is most readily prompted by more selfish considerations: 44,418 persons complained of the Reform Act of 1867, and principally of the ratepaying clauses; while the fear of being made liable for municipal rates explains the appearance of more than 10,000 petitioners against the whole or parts of the Boundary Bill. The same impatience of taxation appears in the petitions of 7770 persons in favour of the equalisation of poor rates in the metropolis, and of 14,737 persons praying for the repeal or reduction of the fire insurance duty. In connection with the last, however, it may be noticed that two persons asked the House of Commons to impose a duty on lucifer matches, which is perhaps an instance of the utility of maintaining the practice of petition, for it is reasonably certain that these two petitioners would have failed, even at the dulllest part of the dull season, to get their suggestion otherwise heard.

The privilege of petition affords such an outlet for fantastic suggestions that it is almost strange so few vagaries are submitted to Parliament. One person asked for the junction of the Atlantic and Pacific by ship canal, having doubtless a plan of his own which he desires to see adopted. Two persons craved for an inquiry into the currency, of whom we may unquestionably say that they have plans of their own. One person desired interference on behalf of the Jews, we suppose somewhere out of England and perhaps in the Danubian Principalities. But the oddest petition was signed by no less than 389 persons, and asked for a restoration of the Derwentwater estates. What a respect for the sacredness of expectations and contempt for prescription are involved in this suggestion! That some one person claiming to be the representative of the Ratcliffs should present such a petition would be intelligible; but that 389 should be inspired with a desire to reinstate the family in their possessions must be reckoned among the curiosities of family sentiment.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE CONTINENT.—The Continental papers seem unable to believe that the visit of the Queen to Switzerland is made merely for the sake of health. They insist upon attributing political significance to it, and the *Nord* even says that it has already served the cause of peace. According to that journal, the Queen, in her interview with the Empress Eugénie, dwelt upon the conciliatory disposition of the great Continental Powers, and pointed out that the maintenance of peace solely depended upon France. Another paper states that a congress is likely to result from her Majesty's Continental tour; and a letter from Berlin says that the Queen and Lord Stanley are expected to have long and important conferences with the various Sovereigns of Germany.

GREAT FIRE IN THE BOROUGH.—Shortly after one o'clock on Monday morning a great fire broke out in the neighbourhood of King-street, Southwark, which resulted in the destruction of a large amount of property. Within a short time eight steam-engines, six manual engines, and seventy firemen had been brought together; but so great was the scarcity of water that upwards of an hour elapsed before even three or four of the steam-engines could be set to work, and, as a consequence, the fire spread with great rapidity. For a time, and until daylight, the flames lighted up a large area of the south side of London; and before they were subdued two warehouses and eighteen dwelling-houses had been destroyed. Seven horses were burned to death. The damage is estimated at £30,000.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN PARIS.—A dreadful fire broke out on Saturday night in the Faubourg St. Antoine, by which five lives were lost. It broke out at about a quarter past ten on the first floor of the house 184, over the shop of a cheesemonger, named Lemesnil, who occupied the rooms above his place of business. The staircase caught almost immediately, and soon cut off all communication with the upper part of the building. Mme. Lemesnil, who had been recently confined, and was in a room with her two children, called for assistance by a trap-door in the floor, communicating with the shop. A sergent-de-ville went to their aid, and, folding the children in a sheet, carried them down, but the flames closed behind him on the staircase and cut off the retreat of the mother. The firemen, however, shortly afterwards arrived with ladders and rescued her, as well as the families which occupied the stories immediately above. The back of the house, built of timber, was then in a complete blaze, and fears were expressed that there might still remain some persons above. The porter, however, declared that all the occupants had escaped. It was not until the fire had been extinguished an hour later, and the firemen and the police went over the house, that they found an entire family, consisting of the father, named Morange, by occupation a journeyman printer, mother, and three children, suffocated in a garret, which they occupied. It would seem that they had been first stifled by the smoke and then "carbonised" by the flames.

THE ARTIFICIAL HAIR TRADE.

(From the "Daily News.")

THE statistics of the false hair trade furnish curious evidence of the increased and increasing artificiality of the age. Male wigs have gone out of fashion, and it is the enormous quantities of false hair used by ladies which have caused the vast rise in its price. This has gone up 400 per cent. within the last dozen years, while four times as much is used now as at that period. Sixteen times as much money is consequently spent upon this article of adornment in the present year as was devoted to it in 1856—a suggestive fact for the swains who are now admiring the silken tresses of their fair partners in the dance or at the seaside promenade. Those who only know false hair from the curious lumps of it in the hairdressers' windows, and from a general suspicion that they see it on the heads of some of their friends, cannot form a notion of the extent to which the trade in it is carried on. It has wholesale dealers with large warehouses, and skilled labourers constantly at work. It is manufactured to meet the wishes and the purses of all classes of society, from the sixpenny frizzlet sold to fill out the sparse locks of the servant-of-all-work, to the ten-guinea head of hair made up to aid the beauty of a Duchess. To visit one of its great emporiums is to become a wiser if not a sadder man. There may be seen samples of hair by the thousand, all which have been cut from living heads, for money, to be sold again. At one of these, last week, huge canvas sacks, each weighing 150 lb. and containing about 600 heads of hair, were standing, unpacked, in one of the workshops. These give out a close and fusty smell, suggesting some furrier's establishment where none but coarse and common furs are sold. The sacks stand on end, and are hard, as well as bulky, from tight packing. They have crossed the Channel recently, their contents having been cut principally from French and German heads. One is cut open for our benefit; and a strange variety of matted, greasy, unpleasant-looking hair is seen. Here is the iron-grey of middle life, the snowy white of old age; the brown, and black, and flaxen of comparative youth; all roughly twisted up together, like so many piebald horses' tails. Some of the hair is long, some short, some coarse, some fine, some neglected and dirty, some carefully combed and clean. There is a ready demand for all, and all will be submitted to some twenty distinct processes before it is offered for sale. Long, massive tresses are taken out of the sack and spread on the table for our instruction. This is hair in its natural state, as cut from the head; and we are begged to note the difference between it and the "manufactured" hair as sold. This is very great. The latter has been combed and washed, and in many cases dyed. Each individual hair has been passed through what looks like a fixed small-tooth comb, and has been coaxed, and teased, and tortured, until the mystery is that there should be any of it left. It is then sorted according to its colour, and sold to retail houses by the ounce. It is rather melancholy to find that grey or white hair is the most valuable of all; and that false hair which is long as well as grey commands the highest price from the number of old ladies wishing to counterfeit nature while preserving the insignia of years. The finest specimens of this elderly hair will sell for as much as two guineas an ounce; while the very best black or brown will sell for from eighteen shillings to a guinea, and the best flaxen at about a guinea and a half. The latter variety is, by the quality what it may, about 50 per cent. dearer than black or brown hair, while white or grey fetches more than the latter by 100 per cent. For it is unnecessary to say that much of the hair sold is far less expensive than that just quoted. Quality, colour, and length determine its price, which ranges from a few shillings an ounce upwards. After the hair has been combed and washed and dried it is folded into oblong parcels, such as large skeins of silk or worsted are kept in in the shops. Fair Saxon hair is still greatly in demand; and as the stock of it must be kept up, many of the other colours have to be stained to the favourite hue. But dyeing hair is far less easy when it has been cut from the head. The natural perspiration of the human subject acts with the chemical compounds used, and it is the boast of the fashionable hairdresser that he can change the hair to any colour by a few applications of his famous washes. Great certainty is moreover expressed as to the shade which will be produced, and dark brown, or flaxen, or black can be prognosticated with as much certainty as if those colours were put on temporarily with a paint-brush. This, according to the hairdressers, is the reason why male wigs have gone out. "Where men used to shave the head and wear a wig when they were turning grey, they now dye their hair, and where they are bald they grow a beard, and, if necessary, dye it," was the explanation given us by an eminent professor of the art of hair dressing and dyeing. The artifice of the male sex differs therefore from that of the female not so much in degree as in mode, for while the latter wear false hair, the former give false colour to their own. But formerly there was no medium in dyeing. The hair and whiskers of an elderly man were either a blueish black or white, as he dyed or let nature have her way. The proceeding was so painfully obvious as scarcely to amount to deception, and the pugatorial way in which men had to sit, with their heads covered with lime-powder and cabbage-leaves until their colour changed from grey to black, added to the horrors of the situation. The liquid dyes invented and improved during the present generation act chemically on the hair without staining the skin, and are by comparison cleanly and convenient. Hence, according to the hairdressers, the enormous increase in dyed hair, and the reduction in the sale of wigs to men. But the abnormal demand for light hair has put both the dealers and their fair customers to considerable inconvenience. The lady who had stained her hair to what she considered the fashionable colour had in many instances attained a tinge unlike any other thing on earth. When, therefore, she wanted a new chignon or tresses to match her latest hue, it was impossible to procure them. No shade of flaxen but by the side of her own metallic yellow would seem dull and flat; and the only way out of the difficulty was to artificially stain the hair a gold until it looked as unnatural as the hair growing. But, as we have said, it is by no means easy to ensure a given shade in hair once cut from the head; and twenty dyesings is no unusual number for it to go through before the coveted colour is attained. Each time it is dipped in the dye it has to be dried, so that the process is not a little tedious. We saw from fifty to a hundred batches of light hair hung up on strings to dry, the majority of which would have to be dyed again. Through the window of the room in which these were, a long line of jetty black ringlets might be seen away to and fro in the sun, and looking in their extreme glossiness and deep-set hue uncommonly like so many black crows swinging from the string above. But these are but examples of what was to be seen on every side. The quantities of the hair around us seemed endless. Drawers, chests, boxes, and packing-cases were full. None, we were assured, is cut from corpses. There is a certain deadness and harshness which an experienced hand recognises immediately in all hair not taken from a living subject. But the various circumstances under which it had been parted with, the poverty, the sickness, the sorrow, the ignorance, and the vice forcibly suggested themselves as we turned over mass after mass of human hair, cleaned, sorted, and labelled for sale, for all the world as if it were so much fur. So nice an art is it to improve the hair from the condition in which it arrives from the Continent into the state in which it is when sold by the ounce, that it is commonly said it can only be learnt when young. The man who attempted it for the first time would waste more than he cleaned. The loose hair would be combed out and lost, instead of put carefully in its place. "The profit," as we were feelingly told, "would be easily combed away, too, and no workman is worth his salt at the hair business unless the fineness of his touch has been trained by constant practice since his youth."

So far we have but touched upon the hair as it is sold without further manipulation than is necessary for its quality, delicacy, and colour. But the variety of ladies' head-dresses of hair which are sold ready-made is very great. Before us lies a large illustrated

pattern sheet, in which every form of "back-hair" worn by every lady we have ever seen seems to be paraded and sold at so much an inch. Its diagrams are facsimiles of what we saw during our visit to the wholesale hair-house. There were the curly ringlets of the romp, the fancy plaits of the demure school girl, the porter's knot, the sausage roll, the snake, the caterpillar, the black-pudding, the parasol, the door-knocker, and the bird's-nest, all of hair. The only inscription given them on the sheet is of this prosaic character, "6 in. wide 5 in. deep," or "Frizzlet hard," or "Frizzlet soft;" but the diagrams tell their own story, and these wondrous preparations strictly resemble what we have said.

We should mention that a considerable trade exists in false beards, moustaches, and whiskers. During the American War a vast number of these were sent out to the United States, and a steady demand continued until the peace. Our informant did not profess to account either for the sudden want of whiskers and beards or for its equally sudden cessation. But the fact is curious that the demand lasted as long as the war, and gradually dropped off at its close. The moustache and whisker, like the best wig-fronts and scalp, are based upon a fine network of white hair, through which the skin of the wearer shows, and a "parting" is secured which fairly rivals nature. Our investigations have been made among some of the largest wholesale dealers in human hair, as well as at some of the most fashionable retail shops. Both abound in the metropolis. The penalty of such inquiries is that they inevitably leave a hideous doubt upon the mind of the reality of curls, or chignons, or tresses. When art imitates nature so wonderfully, and where—as figures and professional witnesses prove to us—a large proportion of the female population avail themselves of art, it becomes exceedingly difficult to draw the line between the two. After seeing and handling hair taken from many thousands of heads, and being taught its use, the belief is pardonable, if morbid, that false locks are almost as common as real; and that whenever they are especially beautiful they should awaken most distrust.

Literature.

"*Ecce Homo*," By the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE. London: Strahan and Co.

There is no great probability of Mr. Gladstone's criticism on "*Ecce Homo*" becoming very popular just now, but yet "the odds" are immensely in favour of its having a longer run than his great antagonist's "*Alarcos*." Neither work can be put down as light entertainment. Mr. Disraeli's is as heavy a piece of tragedy work as we ever got through, and Mr. Gladstone exercises his refining power to an extent which is absolutely tedious. At least one half of his little volume is taken up with most subtle reasoning as to how the first burst of Christianity is to be looked at, and what the author of "*Ecce Homo*" had laid down as his plan of action when first bent upon the task. Ultimately we find that everybody has been quite right, including Mr. Gladstone, of course, who dismisses the book with a blessing, to resume his more congenial occupation with Irish Church affairs. We gather generally that Mr. Gladstone would be glad to have the anonymous author read without fear; although "it is plain that the author repeatedly uses language which could not consistently be employed in treating of Christianity from what is termed the orthodox point of view; and the offence which many have taken on this account has, in some cases, unhappily, put a dead stop to any real investigation of the work in its general bearings." Mr. Gladstone wrote his criticism for the serial pages of *Good Words*, and therefore a little hasty incoherence may be pardoned. Elsewhere he distinctly says that no investigation of the life of our Lord or criticisms upon it should be made; but that all should be taken for granted at the hands of tradition. "As Christianity rapidly accumulated . . . the adhesion of the civil power, the weight of a clergy, the solidity and mass of Christian institutions, the general accommodation of law to principles derived from the Scripture . . . all these in ordinary times seem to the minds of men to be, as proofs, so sufficient, that to seek for others would be waste of time and labour." But surely, if investigation and criticism of the New Testament be waste of time and labour, there is little to regret that the critic's own bad language prevents any investigation and criticism of his own necessarily worthless results. Mr. Gladstone approves the plan—if it were one—of the author of "*Ecce Homo*"—viz., to live through the past, from the birth of Christ to his death, and what took place immediately afterwards; imagining oneself to be a contemporary, and to observe the gradual effect on the mind. It would be conclusive towards belief, and founded on the plan of our Lord himself, who literally worked his way with the people, almost blinded them with his Divinity, and then angered them because he would not be King of the Jews in the kingly Jewish fashion. The "*Ecce Homo*" and Mr. Gladstone's criticism are well worth reading, and will go far to abolish much modern over-clever scepticism. From the book itself, not from Mr. Gladstone, we cannot resist giving half a dozen lines:—"Pilate executed him on the ground that his kingdom was of this world; the Jews procured his execution precisely because it was not. In other words, they could not forgive him for claiming royalty and at the same time rejecting the use of physical force. His royal pretensions were not distasteful to them: backed by a military force, and favoured by success, those pretensions would have been enthusiastically received." It would be curious to know if the Bishop of Oxford had that "*backed by a military force*" in his mind's eye when he spoke of giving the Church of England "a fair start."

The Beggars (Les Gueux); or, the Founders of the Dutch Republic. A Tale. By J. B. DE LIEFDE. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

Many readers, we believe, like to imbibe knowledge and instruction as children take physic—disguised in sweets. Thus, they like what they call dry theology, history, science, morals, and so forth, wrapped up in a pleasant tale; so that they assimilate one ingredient while they are agreeably amusing themselves with another. For our own part, we prefer to take our portion of physic—when necessitated to take it at all—in its native nauseousness; and, on the same principle, we prefer divinity, history, science, or morals "simple of themselves." But, in deference to weak stomachs and weak heads, an innocent disguising of physic and a moderate admixture of the sweets of fiction with weightier matters may be permitted, provided the process be not carried so far as to disgust us with either the kernel or the coating. Applying this principle to the book before us, we may say that the mixing process is largely, and on the whole judiciously, practised; though we think it is here and there carried a little too far. The book has evidently been written with a very decided purpose—or, rather, with two purposes; the first being to show the errors and corruptions of Popery, and the beauty, purity, and Biblical nature of the Reformed doctrine; and the second to illustrate the tyranny, cruelty, and oppression perpetrated by the Duke of Alva, the Inquisition, and the priests upon the people of the Netherlands during the reign of Philip II. of Spain. And the author has elected to do this under cover of a story. We have thus theology, history, and fiction combined; and the only objection we have to offer to the plan of the book is, that the theological element rather too greatly preponderates, at times, to quite suit our fancy. But this, after all, is a matter of taste; and as it is a canon of criticism that a book should be judged, if possible, from the standpoint of the writer, and as, moreover, giving prominence to the religious element was probably Mr. Liefde's chief aim in writing, we must allow that he had a right of choice, and can only hope that the bulk of his readers will be satisfied with the way in which he has executed his design. Of the author's theology we will say nothing; and of his history most persons must be in a position to judge, for has not the whole story of the heroic struggle of the Dutch against Philip and his emissaries been several times told in English—first, by Sir William

Temple in his admirable "*Observations upon the United Provinces of the Netherlands*;" and recently, in most glowing language, by Mr. Motley, in his "*History of the Dutch Republic*."

Mr. Liefde's tale begins with the institution of the order of "Beggars" at Count Brederode's feast, and recounts the fortunes of a certain "Yonker" Galama and his sweetheart, Agnes Vloosert, both of whom embrace the Reformed doctrines, and both suffer, and strive, and distinguish themselves in the holy and patriotic warfare. There is some good character-painting; that of the arch jesuit and spy, Father Sixtus (or Gerard Block, as he calls himself) being, perhaps, the most successful. Black Hans, Galama's servant, and Peter Blink, the great friend and ally of Hans, are also well hit off. In the course of the story we are introduced to several historical personages, such as Count de la Marck, Blois de Treslong, and others. The tale closes with the capture of Brill by the "Sea-Beggars," and the real foundation of the Dutch Republic. Here the troubles of the hero and heroine end, for the time at least; and we are promised a continuation of the history of the long struggle in another work. We shall be glad to welcome this continuation when it appears, having been very much interested by the present instalment; and sincerely hope that the author, who is evidently not absolutely master of English composition, may fall into the hands of more intelligent and painstaking printers than has been his fortune on this occasion, for his book is positively disfigured by the many and gross typographical errors it exhibits. The printers' names attached to this volume are new to us; we do not recollect ever to have seen them before, so we conclude that they are a young firm, and would recommend them, if they wish to prosper, to take more pains, and not again issue such merely "prentice-hand" work as this. By-the-by, is it the fault of the author or of the printers that the note on the "Headless Counts," referred to on page 131, does not appear in the volume at all?

While on the topic of printers' blunders, we may remark that inaccurate printing has become alarmingly prevalent of late. Good paper and fair presswork are, in numerous instances that come under our notice, absolutely spoiled by faulty typography. Who is to blame for this? Has an inferior order of compositors and proof-readers grown up amongst us? Are books brought out in too much haste to admit of accuracy? Or are publishers so intent on cheapness as to ignore bad spelling, vile punctuation, and faulty grammar? We should really like to know who and what is responsible for the defects that so frequently vex us in books nowadays. About the fact there can be no doubt; and the present book is only an exaggerated specimen of the prevailing slovenliness.

Ballads, and Other Poems. Original and Translated. By the late Right Hon. Sir EDMUND HEAD, Bart., K.C.B.

These few pages have already appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*, and Sir Edmund Head had collected them for a volume, strangely enough, for private circulation only. But those into whose hands they have fallen, not knowing how far the circle of friends and acquaintances might extend, have deemed it better to publish in the ordinary manner, so that all may easily be gratified and none possibly offended. We do not exactly care to criticise such poetry—probably the amusement of the author's very few leisure hours. If we call it exceedingly good ballad verse from an accomplished gentleman who could do nothing ill, and which shows a considerable range of taste, enough has been said to introduce it to the reader. There are two free translations from Propertius, the first (Bk. V., El. 2) being that in which a dying mother takes leave of husband and children in a sensible, plain manner, which might really alarm the lady in Mr. Browning's "*Any Wife to Any Husband*." What would she think of these four lines?

You, too, my children, at your father's side,
In after years, a step-dame you may see,
Let no rash word offend her jealous pride,
Nor indiscreetly wound by praising me.

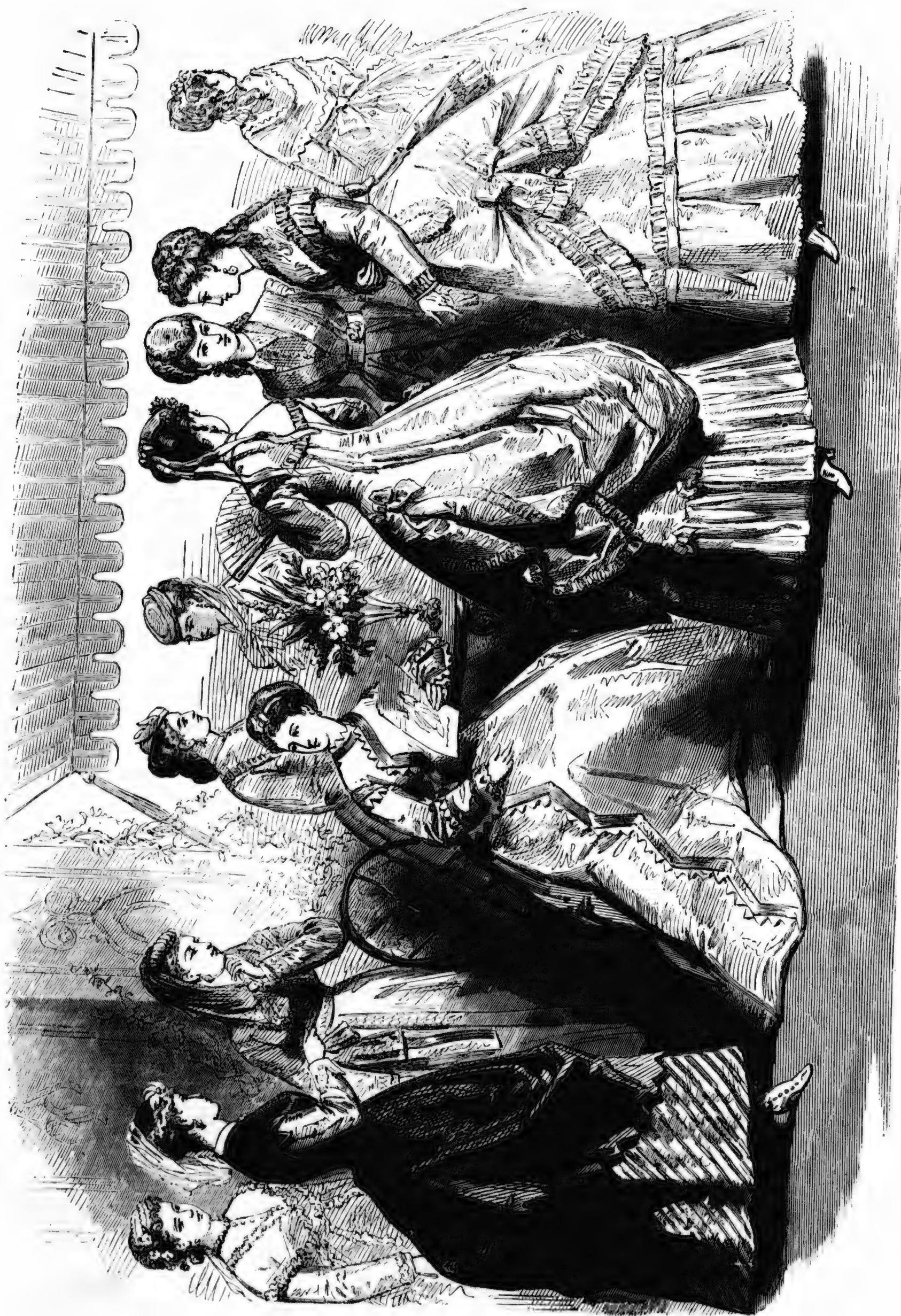
The second (Bk. IV., El. 3), a "*A Letter from a Wife to her Husband with the Army in the East*," is also poetically rendered, and must have great charms for all readers of English verse. There are translations also from Spanish, German, Icelandic, and Greek! There is a certain market for things Spanish just now, and Sir Edmund weaves a capital original ballad out of a mere little legend, Count von Platen's German poems may have some admirers, now that Heinrich Heine is dead; and the Bridal Song of Helen, from Theocritus, is never likely to escape adulation. With a few short original pieces—notably a stirring ballad founded on a Jutland legend—this little volume is completed. It seems to us to be the amateur work of a scholar, and it must assuredly gain recognition from the large number of interested persons to whom it is addressed.

Turf Frauds and Turf Practices; or, Spiders and Flies. By M. R. LAING-MEASON, Author of "*The Bubbles of Finance*," &c. London: Routledge and Sons.

Recent events on the turf have, no doubt, suggested the compilation of this little book, as a famous phrase used in the correspondence in reference to the racing transactions of an eminent sporting nobleman has given to it its secondary title; and these same events no doubt will impart an interest to it which it might not otherwise possess. The author tells us that "the tales it contains connected with turf practices are founded on facts," although the names of men, places, horses, &c., "are all purely fictitious." If such be the case, of course the facts have a certain value, however other matters may be disguised; and it is to be hoped, therefore, that the stories here told may have a salutary influence in deterring men from the perpetration of certain "turf frauds and turf practices" that have, unfortunately, become only too common of late. Some of the papers in the volume originally appeared in *All the Year Round*, and will, consequently, be already known by many readers. The remainder are now published for the first time.

A QUIET REVOLUTION.—A very quiet revolution has just taken place in the Republic of the valley of Andorre, in the Pyrenees. It appears that all the inhabitants of that happy land gathered themselves together one evening last week and requested the President of their Republic, Baron Senallier, whom they accused of violent usury, formally to abdicate—a request which this worthy was fain to fulfil. Thereupon they as peacefully installed two new Syndics—a new Government, in fact. This done, the new Government proceeded in state to the French and Spanish representatives, or "vigilantes," and begged them to convince themselves with their own eyes that "Peace has not been disturbed," and that the "Government was fully re-established." And so everything began and ended most satisfactorily.

THE FIRST PRIVATE HANGING.—The first execution under the new Act, by which capital punishment is ordered to be inflicted within the prison walls, took place, on Thursday, at Maidstone. The culprit to be hanged was Thomas Wells, a railway porter at Dover, who was recently convicted of the murder of his immediate superior, the station-master, at the Priory station there. The scaffold was erected in a small yard adjoining the debtors' portion of the gaol, which had at one time been used as an exercise-yard for the prisoners. It is enclosed by four high walls. The apparatus is the same that was formerly made use of, with some slight alterations. The drop is on a perfect level with the stone paving of the yard, and the executioner has to descend several stone steps to remove the bolt which supports the platform, and the latter then drops into a recess prepared for it. The apparatus is intended to be a permanent fixture in this portion of the prison; but when not required it is intended to screen it from sight by having it closed in with movable shutters. It was, of course, generally known that the execution was to take place, but as it was also known that it would be conducted in private, and that the only sign of the proceedings would be the hoisting of a black flag outside the prison wall at the moment of the falling of the drop, there were very few, if any, strangers in the vicinity of the prison, and the town presented quite its ordinary appearance. A few of the tradesmen and other inhabitants might have been observed conversing together upon the spectacle that was going on within the walls of the prison, but the town generally presented a marked and extraordinary contrast to that which it has exhibited upon occasions when executions have taken place in public. No one was present at the execution but the Under-Sheriff, Governor, surgeon, Chaplain, and representatives of the press—sixteen in number. The culprit prayed with the Rev. Mr. Frazer, the Chaplain, for a few seconds, and as the drop fell he was singing a hymn with a loud clear voice. He appeared to die after two or three convulsive struggles.



PARIS FASHIONS.

THE FASHIONS.

LITTLE or no change has taken place in the world of fashion during this month, although we have seen one or two striking and effective costumes which have been prepared for the *habitués* of the fashionable promenades of our seaside resorts. We greatly admired a costume composed of grey Japanese silk, the under skirt having a flounce edged with green satin. The upper skirt, quite plain at the waist, was scalloped and piped up each seam with green satin; the scallops were edged with a deep silk fringe of the same shade as the satin roll. A Marie Antoinette fichu trimmed to correspond completed the dress, with which was worn a black tulle hat, with red roses in front, and lace ends falling down the back.

Another dress for walking had the under skirt of striped foulard, the stripes crossing diagonally; the upper jupe of silk the same shade as the stripe, vandyked round the bottom and bound with satin; the bodice without sleeves, having an epaulette to match the skirt, vandyked and bound; a linen collar and white cambric sleeves, with large pointed cuffs falling back from the wrist. A black velvet toque with white aigrette and gauze veil, was worn with this dress, which forms one of the figures represented in our Engraving.

The figure seated at the table represents a new style of trimming for indoor dress. The straight band should be of velvet of a darker shade; or, as a contrast to the dress, the pointed edge of satin may be either white or a lighter shade of the same colour as the velvet. The sleeve is wider at the wrist than the present style, and has the large cuff of the *Moyen Age*.

Another style of costume, recalling the sack of the time of our grandmothers, is seen in the Engraving, in the figure showing the back of the costume, which is plaited in at the middle, and falls in a festoon, caught up at the side with a bow of ribbon and falling in a pointed lappel edged with a quilling of ribbon; a *ruche* is placed round the shoulders and wrists. The under skirt has a plaited flounce, on the top of which, at intervals, are bows of ribbon.

High-heeled shoes of patent leather or morocco, with silver buckles, are worn with this costume, and are very fashionable.

Fichus are worn in almost every material. Those of muslin, trimmed with guipure or Mecklin lace, having coloured ribbons run through the insertion, are very pretty, and may be effectively worn with Chambray gauze dresses.

Pelerines are also much worn, and are of silk lace, or gauze, or of the same material as the dress.

For morning costume white muslin aprons, trimmed with lace or embroidery and coloured ribbons, are much worn.

THE STATUE OF PALISSY
AT SAINTES.

THERE has just been a great festival at Saintes, the town in the Charente Inférieure, celebrated as the birthplace of the immortal potter Bernard Palissy, and the ceremonies have been associated with the great event of the occasion, the opening of an exhibition of ceramic art, where the works of Palissy himself formed the principal attraction. Of course there have been all sorts of amusements, and, as the French are just now enamoured of "le sport," horse-racing and a grand steeplechase have taken a prominent place in the appropriate entertainments. Four years ago M. Vacherie, the Mayor of Saintes, opened a subscription for the purpose of erecting a statue of the great artist, and all the distinguished inhabitants of the district



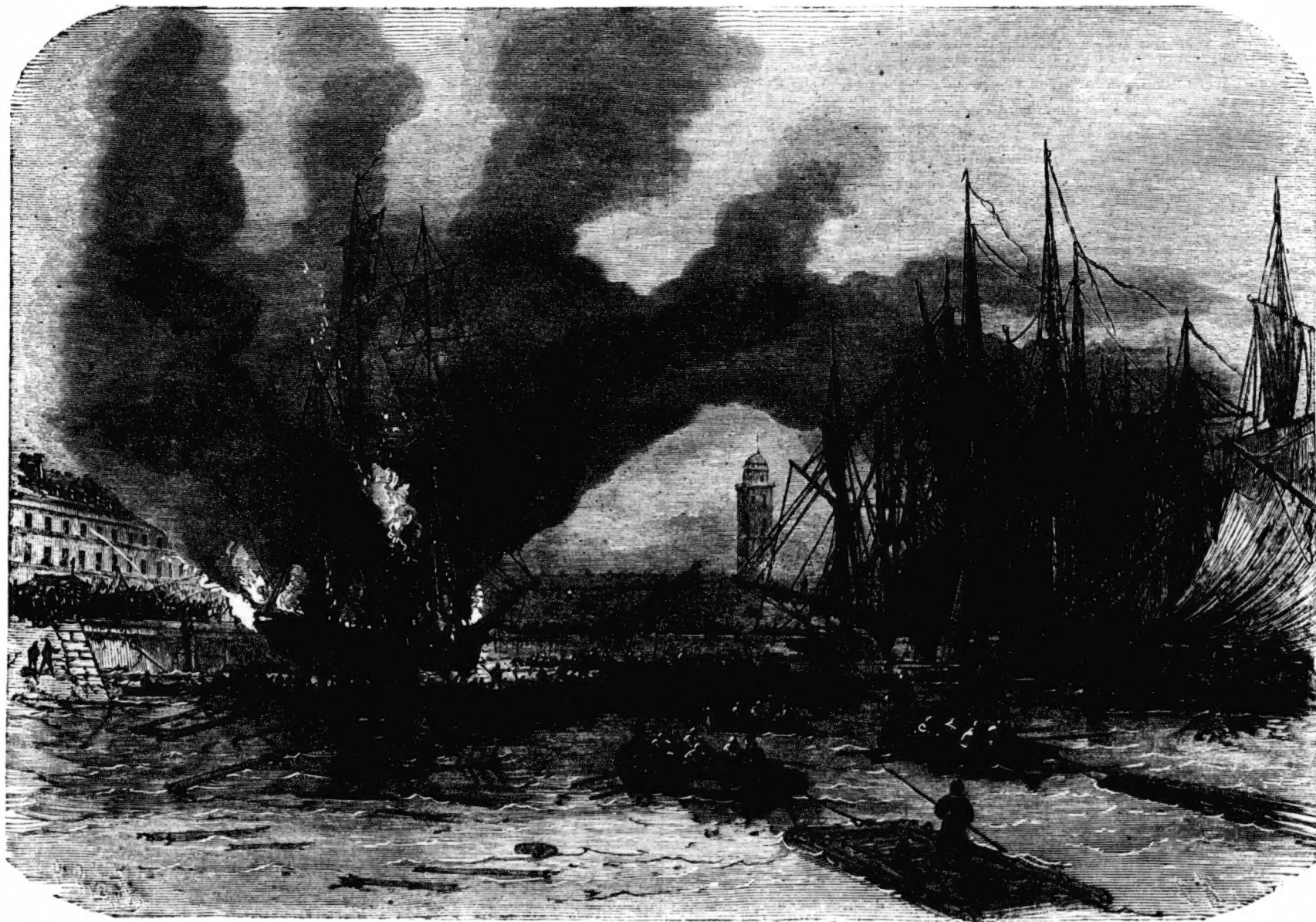
STATUE OF BERNARD PALISSY, LATELY ERECTED AT SAINTES.

became interested in the carrying out of the work, creditably and with an enthusiasm worthy of the memory of the *potier de terre*. The commission consisted of Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, M. de Chasseloup-Laubat, Marshal Regnaud de Saint-Jean-d'Angély; M. Dufaure, advocate and member of the French Academy; Mgr. Landriot, formerly Bishop of Rochelle and now Archbishop of Rheims; M. Paul Bethmont, the Protestant pastor of the town; and MM. Vast-Wimeux, Eschasséaux, and Roy-de-Loulay, Deputies; Anatole Lemerrier, the former Deputy, and M. de Lastegrie, member of the Institute. M. Ferdinand Taluet, pupil of David of Angers, was the successful competitor for the work; and it must be acknowledged that he has accomplished his task with remarkable success.

On the 2nd inst. the ceremony of inauguration took place, and perhaps there never was so much excitement at Saintes within living memory. At every point of the district great crowds seemed to be converging towards a common centre, where the marble likeness of Maître Bernard awaited their inspection; and at ten o'clock in the morning Admiral Darricau arrived in the town. At noon all the workmen of Saintes were grouped round the base of the statue—a thought of the Mayor, who thus did honour alike to the memory of Palissy and the dignity of labour. An hour afterwards a procession, composed of the Mayor, M. Darricau, M. Le Masson, Prefect of the Charente Inférieure; M. de Champagnac, Sub-Prefect of the town; of deputies of departments, councillors and members of the Commission, started from the place of the ceremony, accompanied by groups of workmen, the potters, of course, occupying the most prominent place. It is on the delightful banks of the Charente, on the spot where it is said that Palissy chopped up his furniture to keep the furnaces alight in which his enamels were baking, that the statue is erected—a spot admirably chosen, since it is one of the most conspicuous in the town, and no visitor can pass through Saintes without seeing the figure of the greatest of its townsmen known to history. The statue is of fine white marble, and is about 7 ft. in height. When the veil that concealed it was removed the great crowd broke into applause and shouting. Then the Mayor delivered an address, which was a eulogium of the man whose memory they sought to perpetuate. He was followed by other speakers, who addressed the meeting in a similar strain, and the proceedings terminated with a grand banquet which was provided for the distinguished party, to which five workmen, chosen as delegates by their companions, were also invited. In the evening a grand display of fireworks and a torchlight procession closed the proceedings.

BURNING OF A VESSEL IN THE PORT
OF DUNKIRK.

OUR Engraving represents the latest of those accidents which threaten to multiply disasters in shipping ports until better regulations are enforced for the disposal of vessels freighted with inflammable cargoes, and especially petroleum. This calamity took place at Dunkirk, where the American schooner *Billow* lay charged with 481 casks of petroleum and nine casks of essential oils, intended for the English market. There were on board the wife of the captain and their family, consisting of three boys and two little girls of six and two years of age; the crew, two sailors who were on a visit, and the cabin boy. On the evening of the 29th of last month those who passed the quay where the ship lay alongside were almost suffocated by the fearful smell that exhaled from it; and on the following morning the captain asked his wife for a



FIRE IN THE HARBOUR OF DUNKIRK.

pulley, which she was unable to find, and she lighted a match to look for it. A frightful explosion immediately ensued, for the gas seemed to have collected in that part of the vessel. The roof of the cabin was blown into the air, and the poor mother with her children was immediately enveloped in flames. Part of the crew leaped on to the quay; the captain, the mate, and one of the elder boys went to rescue the victims, but could only save the wife. The infant, unless he dies of the shock, owes his life to a custom-house officer, who rushed into the flames to rescue the helpless little creature. The two little girls were lost, and there was no hope of saving the vessel; all that could be done was to clear the surrounding ships from its dangerous neighbourhood—a manoeuvre which was swiftly and successfully executed. The wife of the captain has entirely lost her sight.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

We are now at the very dull point of the musical year. There is no opera; there are no concerts; and the only concerts promised to us—and that vaguely—are of the kind known as "promenade." Mr. Schallehn, formerly conductor of the Crystal Palace band, will, it is said, direct a series of promenade concerts at Covent-garden Theatre, to be opened for that purpose at the beginning of September. We also hear that, as last year, the Agricultural Hall will shortly be turned into a concert-hall, the performances to take place, as before, under the direction of Mr. Kingsbury.

It is said that next season Mr. Mapleson will certainly assume the management of the new opera-house, now being erected on the site of what was formerly Her Majesty's Theatre. During the whole of the past season Mr. Mapleson, resembling in this respect Mr. Gye, pursued a strictly conservative policy. He produced nothing new; and, inasmuch as one of the novelties promised at the beginning of the season was Herr Wagner's "Lohengrin," there are many persons who will be inclined to applaud the manager for not indulging in rash experiments. But though no new operas have been revealed to us, we have at least made the acquaintance this season of several new singers. Mlle. Clara Louise Kellogg, for instance, if at the beginning of the present season she was not absolutely new, was, at least, as good as new, and, indeed (considering how often new singers turn out failures), a vast deal better. Moreover, she has appeared in a great variety of new parts. Signor Fraschini, who to most opera-goers must have appeared in the light of a new tenor, was by others recognised as an old friend of twenty years since. With many defects, Signor Fraschini also possesses many of the gifts and qualities of a first-rate singer. His naturally fine voice is still in good preservation, and he employs it, for the most part, intelligently and like an artist, though never with that true dramatic expression which forms the merit and the charm of Signor Mario's singing.

Of a tenor named Ferens, the less said the better. He appeared in "Les Huguenots," and disappeared soon afterwards. Neither his voice nor his style was admirable; and he was no actor. When Mr. Mapleson was on the point of closing and his managerial cares seemed to be at an end, two tenors, Signor Carlo Bulterini and Signor Moriano-Neri, suddenly put in an appearance and demanded to be heard. They both proved to be fair specimens of a class of tenors abounding in Italy, who are just passable, and of whom one does not know what to say, except that they are essentially mediocre. Signor Moriano-Neri is, we are told, a brother of Signor Mongini, about whose ability those who have once heard him cannot have the slightest doubt. No tenor of the present day has such a voice as Signor Mongini, and it cannot now be said of him, as when he first arrived in England, that he possesses voice and nothing else. Formerly Signor Mongini did, indeed, seem to rely too much on his mere physical power. He is still, above all, an energetic singer; but he also sings with intelligence and feeling, and with a variety of expression of which some years ago we should have thought him incapable. Mme. Trebelli-Bettini, who has for some years past been without a rival in contralto and mezzo-soprano parts, has fully maintained her reputation, and in her particular realm has held all but undivided sway. At the very end of the season, on the last night but one, Mlle. Gandrina, a niece of Mlle. Titiens, undertook the part of Siebel in the second act of "Faust," and sang the air addressed to the flowers gracefully and with good expression.

ALL BENEFICED CLERGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND are now either Rectors or Vicars. The style of "Perpetual Curate," which has been attached to the incumbencies of district churches and of the greater part of the appropriate and impropriate rectories, has been extinguished by the District Church Titles Amendment Act, which has just become law, and the nominal inferiority implied by the use of that title has thus been removed.

QUAKERS AND CHURCH-RATES.—The Society of Friends, in their annual report on the subject, give the following figures as to distrials on the property of Friends:—Church-rates, cases, thirty-nine, amount £153 19s. 4d.; rent charge in lieu of tithes, cases 155, amount £1716 1s.; other ecclesiastical demands, cases sixteen, amount £33 2s. 2d. These figures are for England and Wales, the principal total being in Essex, £624 8s. 8d.; Warwickshire, Leicestershire, and Staffordshire are conjoined, the total being £37 8s. 5d. The Lancashire and Cheshire Friends have been mulcted of £29 6s. 8d., and those of Yorkshire have suffered to the extent of £65 10s. 7d. In one case, for a claim of 3s. 3d. £6 was taken; for 2s. 4d. £3 was taken.

HOW PARSONS MAKE "PEACE ON EARTH."—An almost incredible story of clerical intolerance comes from the village of Caverswall, in Staffordshire. A burial board was formed there two or three years ago, to which a sexton was appointed, with the approval of the Vicar. Subsequently, however, the clergyman quarrelled with the sexton, and appointed another. The man first selected continued to act, with the approval of the board; and thus, for some time past, rival sextons have officiated in the burial-ground. Last Saturday evening each had prepared for a funeral; but while the Curate of the parish read the service over the grave dug by the Vicar's sexton, he declined to do so in the other case, quoting the Vicar's authority for the course which he pursued. The second body was therefore interred without any ceremony whatever. The occurrence has given rise to great indignation in the district.

INDIGNATION MEETING OF RAILWAY TRAVELLERS.—An indignation meeting has been held at Fenge, under the chairmanship of Mr. Tom Hood, to take steps towards shaping the grievances of railway passengers under the recent increase of fares in London into practical action. Resolutions were passed pledging the meeting to use the southern railways as little as possible, to travel third-class only; to encourage and assist in the establishment of omnibuses; the formation of a local committee, to act in concert with the local committees now forming, and then to have a series of aggregate meetings. A copy of the proceedings was ordered to be sent to each of the southern railway companies. The meeting was numerously attended by some of the most influential inhabitants, as also by the working classes; and the meeting pledged itself not to support any candidate for the new Parliament unless he was prepared to deal with the question of the railways, and to support an independent line from London to Brighton. One gentleman offered £1000 as a start in the taking up of shares. The meeting was characterised by much earnestness.

ART-UNION OF LONDON.—Last Saturday the pictures selected by the prizeholders of the year were arranged for exhibition, by private view, at the Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Pall-mall. The prizes range from £200 to £10, and the pictures are, consequently, of various degrees of merit. They have been selected from the exhibitions of the season just closed, and contain many pictures with which connoisseurs will be glad to renew their acquaintance. The great prize of the year is "La Vita Nuova," by Topham, from the Royal Academy; but the winner of a prize of £100 has supplemented the sum available for the purchase of a work of art by becoming the possessor of the picture by G. F. Hering, from the Royal Academy, entitled "The Head of the Glen." Other pictures, generally admired, which show the manner in which the Art-Union of London encourages art by its system of prize distribution, are:—"Envadodnan, near Land's-End, Cornwall," by H. K. Taylor; "Near the Mumbles," by J. Webb; "On the Wey, between Godalming and Shalford," by J. Tennant; "Whitby, from Sleights," by E. J. Niemann; and "Rustic Gallantry," by C. Landseer, R.A. The prizes to be given to subscribers were also exhibited. They include a bronze copy of the Nelson Monument, with the Landseer lions, after a reduced model; a bronze medallion inkstand; a Wood Nymph, parian statuette (Birn), reduced copy; a chronolithograph of Mulready's picture "Choosing the Wedding Gown;" and one ofirket Foster's "Flying the Kite." The Art-Union of London numbers about 18,000 members, a large portion of whose guinea's subscription comes back to the body of members in the shape of art-prizes of various kinds. The exhibition will remain open until Saturday, the 20th inst., for the reception of members of the Art-Union and their friends.

THE POST OFFICE.

THE fourteenth report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office, lately issued, contains much valuable and interesting information. It appears from the tabular statements respecting receptacles for letters, that at the close of 1867 there was one receptacle for every 296 houses in England and Wales, one for every 252 houses in Scotland, and one for every 437 houses in Ireland. During the year 1866 free deliveries were for the first time established at 351 places (exclusive of single houses) in the United Kingdom; and in the same period additional free deliveries were given to 124 places, while the boundaries of 206 other free deliveries were enlarged. During the year 1867 the extension of free deliveries was carried on more actively than in the year 1866. The total number of post towns in England and Wales in 1865 was 542; in 1866, 555; and in 1867, 559. Great improvements and accelerations have been made during the past year in the dispatch of mails. The scale of postage, progressive by half an ounce through all its gradations, was extended to the correspondence between the United Kingdom and numerous foreign countries. The pattern-post has been greatly extended, and also the fees on registered letters, &c. The postage has been reduced to many kingdoms on the Continent. Among the new contracts made last year was one with the African Steam-Ship Company for the conveyance of the mails monthly to and from the west coast of Africa, on terms by which a saving of £10,000 a year was effected. The company are now dispatching steamers to the African ports twice a month, and an extra mail is carried monthly to each port, the company receiving a portion of the sea postage on the letters carried as their remuneration. In June, 1867, a new convention was signed, under which the total postage on a single letter passing between the United Kingdom and the United States was reduced from one shilling to sixpence; the transmission of book-packets and patterns at a low rate of postage was sanctioned, and reduced rates of charge were established for correspondence sent in transit through either country. The altered arrangements necessary to comply with the stipulations of the new convention with the United States were found to be so unfavourable that it will only be continued in force for one year, when it is hoped another will be concluded free from the objections attaching to that of June, 1867. Mr. Anthony Trollope has recently been to Washington to negotiate such a convention. Endeavours have been made to conclude a new postal convention with Brazil; but, as there did not appear any prospect of success, the negotiation terminated. The improvements made in the London district are numerous, and include extension of time for posting letters for night mails to the country, the acceleration of correspondence by new arrangements with the district offices, additional collections of letters, and by the opening of nineteen new receiving offices, and the erection of sixty-four pillar letter-boxes. The total number of receptacles for letters in the metropolitan district at the close of 1867 was made up as follows:—Receiving offices, 469, of which number 417 were money-order offices and 405 were Post-Office savings banks; pillar letter-boxes, 428; wall letter boxes, 54; railway-station boxes, 9. The service in many provincial towns has been placed upon a new and satisfactory footing. The increase in the number of letters conveyed by the Post Office during the year 1866, and again during the year 1867, was, as in previous years, much more than proportionate to the increase of population in all parts of the United Kingdom, and to the increase in the number of inhabited houses. In the United Kingdom the proportion of letters to population rose from 24 per head per annum in 1865 and 1866, to 26 per head per annum in 1867; and the proportion of letters to inhabited houses rose from 135 letters to one house in 1865, to 141 letters to one house in 1866, and 144 letters to one house in 1867. During the years 1866 and 1867 the total number of letters delivered in the London district would have been much more than sufficient to give a delivery of one letter on every working day to each house throughout the district. The gross total of the articles conveyed by the Post Office rose in 1866 to 750,000,000; books, free and chargeable newspapers, samples, and patterns, 101,784,185; in all, 851,784,185. And the gross total of the articles conveyed in 1867 was—letters, 774,831,000; books, free and chargeable newspapers, samples and patterns, 102,278,301; in all, 877,109,301. The progress of the book post and the pattern post calls for no special comment. The report states with respect to valentines that in 1866 the number was estimated at 997,000, whilst in 1867 the number rose to 1,119,142. As in previous years, it was found that the valentines sent from London to the country were twice as numerous as those sent from the country to London; and also that the number of valentines posted in the western district was, in both years, greatly in excess of the number posted in any other district of London. The estimated postage derived from the valentines passing through London was £9354 in 1866, and £11,242 in 1867. Valentines having postage charged upon them to the amount of nearly £200 in each year were refused by the persons to whom they were addressed. The number of registered letters passing through the registered-letter branch of the General Post Office, either for dispatch or delivery, was, in the year 1865, 1,800,982; in the year 1866 this number had increased to 1,955,141, or an increase of 8½ per cent; in the year 1867 the number had increased to 1,964,980, or an increase of 0·5 per cent. These figures are exclusive of the letters containing coin, which are compulsorily registered in this department, and which numbered 37,123 in 1865, 33,364 in 1866, and 28,000 in 1867. There has also been a corresponding increase in the number of registered letters passing through the post in the whole of the United Kingdom, which number amounted in 1866 to 2,540,160, and in 1867 to 2,619,570. In 1866 an important improvement was introduced in the system of treating registered letters in the registered-letter branch of the chief office, rendered necessary by the growth and the extreme importance of the duty performed there. This change consisted in an improved system, by means of which the check was extended to each officer through whose hands the registered letters passed, instead of being confined to those only who received and dispatched the letters. The returned letters for 1867 were slightly in excess of the number for 1866, the total being, in 1866, 3,602,995; 1867, 3,618,888. At the end of the year 1865 the number of money-order offices was 3418, and at the end of the year 1866 the number was 3567, showing an increase of 149; at the end of 1867 the number amounted to 3691, showing an increase on the previous year of 124, or a total increase on the two years of 271 offices. During the years 1866 and 1867 the money-order business was established between this country and Alexandria, Turk's Island, Dominica, Bermuda, Nevis, Bahia, Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, and Lagos. The number of depositors in post-office savings banks, and the amounts deposited continue to increase. The number of savings banks at the close of 1864 were 3507, the number of deposits received from Dec. 31, 1865, to Dec. 31, 1866, were 1,525,871, and the total amount of deposits £4,400,657. The number of savings banks at the close of last year were 3629; the number of deposits received from Dec. 31, 1866, to Dec. 31, 1867, 1,592,344, and the total amount of deposits £4,618,906. The number and amount of withdrawals during the past year exhibited an increase over 1866. The total number of depositors in post-office savings banks and old savings banks combined, and throughout the kingdom, had risen at the close of the year 1866 to 2,156,290, and at the close of the year 1867 to 2,232,347. The total number of depositors, at the end of the year 1865, was 1,304,000; so that there has been in the last twelve years an increase of nearly a million in the number of savings-bank depositors. In England and Wales there was in 1866 and 1867 one depositor to every eleven persons; in Scotland, one depositor to every sixteen persons; and in 1867 one to every sixty-nine persons; and in the whole of the United Kingdom there was, in both years, one depositor to every fourteen persons. The total amount of sums received on account of Government annuity and insurance contracts, from the commencement of business, on April 17, 1865, to Dec. 31, 1867, was £103,701 15s. 3d. The total amount of payments in the same

period was £159,974 8s. 7d., leaving a balance of £3777 6s. 8d. The gross revenue from letters, books, packets, &c., in 1866 was £1,311,457; money-order commissions, £166,430; and produce of the impressed stamp on newspapers, £121,780: the total postal revenue being £1,599,667. An increase was observable in 1867, the figures being—gross revenue from letters, &c., £1,376,044; money-order commissions, £172,085; and newspaper-stamp produce, £120,085: the total revenue being £1,668,214. The total cost of the Post-Office service in 1866 was £3,201,681, as compared with £3,216,850 in 1867. The net revenue in 1866 was £1,397,986, against £1,421,364 for 1867. The average net revenue of the first five years since 1858 was £587,507. The average net revenue of the second five years, £1,298,507.

OBITUARY.

THE MARQUIS OF DOWNSHIRE.—On Thursday, Aug. 6, Arthur Wills Blundell Sandys Trumbull Windsor Hill, K.P., fourth Marquis of Downshire and fifth Viscount, died, after a few hours' illness, at Herne Bay, Kent, whither his Lordship and the Marchioness of Downshire had proceeded for a brief stay. The deceased nobleman was born in 1812, and succeeded his father in 1845. He was M.P. for Downshire 1836-45; and married, 1837, the Hon. Caroline Frances Stapleton Cotton, eldest daughter of the first Viscount Combermere. His Lordship leaves two sons and one daughter. The eldest son, Arthur Wills Blundell Trumbull Sandys Roden, Earl of Hillsborough, born 1844, succeeds to the title. The only daughter, Lady Alice Hill, is married to Lord Kenlis.

THE RIGHT HON. STEPHEN RUMBOLD LUSHINGTON.—Death has at length carried off one of the last remaining veterans of the old unreformed House of Commons and members of the Liverpool Administration, the Right Hon. Stephen Rumbold Lushington, D.C.L., who has passed away at his seat in Kent, at the age of ninety-three. He is not to be confounded with his cousin of the same name, the eminent civilian who till recently presided over the Court of Arches, or with that cousin's nephew, Admiral "Sir" Stephen Lushington, G.C.B. The subject of this biography was born at Bottisham, Cambridgeshire, in May, 1776, the third son of the late Rev. James Stephen Lushington, of Rodmersham, Kent, some time Prebendary of Carlisle. He was educated at Rugby, and was probably the oldest of living Rugbeians. In early life he acted as private secretary to General Lord Harris, whose daughter he married, and of whose life and services he published a memoir. He entered Parliament very early in the present century, as a strong and ardent supporter of old-fashioned Tory principles, and represented the borough of Rye from 1807 till the general election of 1812, when he was chosen for Canterbury. To this constituency he was faithful in his allegiance for nearly twenty years, being returned as Lord Clifton's colleague, without a contest, in 1818 and 1820, and at the top of the poll in 1826. During the earlier part of his Parliamentary career he held the Chairmanship of Ways and Means; and afterwards, from 1814 to 1827, he saw some active service in Downing-street as Joint Secretary of the Treasury, in which capacity his zeal, and energy, and business habits were of great use to his party. He did not contest Canterbury in 1830, having accepted the Government of Madras from the Tories shortly before their leaving office. Having returned to England at the expiration of the usual term of Indian Governorship, he again contested Canterbury, in December, 1834, but was defeated by Mr. Villiers, though he was subsequently seated, on petition, by a Committee. He retired from Parliamentary life at the dissolution which followed the King's death, in 1837, and does not appear again to have courted the suffrages of any constituency. His son, Mr. Charles Manners Lushington, however, represented Canterbury in the Parliament of 1852. Mr. Stephen R. Lushington was sworn a member of the Privy Council in 1827, and in 1839 had conferred on him the honorary degree of D.C.L. at Oxford. He lived many years after his public career was ended, in the enjoyment of a green old age, and till a comparatively recent date was active in the discharge of his duties as a resident landowner and a magistrate of Kent. His first wife dying, in 1806, he married, a second time, two years afterwards, at the ripe age of eighty-three. By his first marriage he had a family of two daughters and six sons.

M. BOUCHER DE PERTHES.—This gentleman, whose claim to the honour of being the founder of the new science called archaeo-geology is now universally admitted, died, on Monday, Aug. 3, at Abbeville, at the advanced age of eighty. M. Boucher de Crèvecœur de Perthes was the first to call the attention of the learned world to those remarkable relics of the earliest ages, the flint implements used by man before the discovery of metals. At first ridiculed as a visionary, then by slow degrees listened to with increasing interest, he at length succeeded in proving to archaeologists that there had been in Europe an age of stone; nay, he went further, and conquered the incredulity of geologists by producing the first human jaw ever found in the undisturbed Alpine drift, showing thereby that man had been coeval with the extinct races of large carnivora that peopled Europe before the commencement of the present geological period. His valuable collection of flint instruments now forms an important part of the Gallio-Roman Museum at St. Germain.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual report of the Royal Insurance Company has just been issued to the shareholders, and was highly satisfactory, both in the fire and life departments. The fire premiums showed an increase of £13,282 over the preceding year, and amounted for 1867 to £460,553. During the same term the fire losses were £292,125, and a net profit of £56,373, after paying all claims and expenses, was thus exhibited by the fire branch. It was also announced that the results of the present year are still more prosperous. In the life branch it appears that the liberality of the directors in increasing the policy-holders' share in the profits has had marked results. The average amount of new sums assured during the last three years has been £801,000 per annum, while the careful selection of business is shown by the fact that the average amount declined by the company has been £213,000. The usual dividend of 7s. per share was declared.

CENSUS OF ROME.—The annual census just completed in the fifty-four parishes of Rome has produced the following statistical results, which, it must be added, must be taken on the mere word of those engaged in the work, since there is no official authority attaching to it. It appears, then, that Rome has a floating population of 217,378 souls—that is, 30,000 more than in 1859. The population would soon be double if the large pestilential swamps were cultivated. The 217,378 inhabitants of the Eternal City are classed as follows:—Twenty-nine Cardinals; twenty-eight Patriarchs, Archbishops, and bishops; 1372 Prelates, priests or clerici; 790 seminarists, 2947 monks, and 2191 nuns. There are further 2394 Jews and 2208 Jewesses, who live near their synagogue; and 488 schismatics or heretics, who attend service at the Russian, Prussian, English, American, or Presbyterian chapels, situated outside Rome, on the Via Flaminia. Instruction, it is stated, is given to 14,057 boys and 11,860 girls, and to a fourth part of these it is gratuitous.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.—The report of the President of Queen's College, Belfast, for the year ending June 10, 1868, has been published. The attendance of students during the past year amounted to 390. The number in the preceding year was 387. Dr. Henry says that since the opening of the college no session has passed over marked by greater diligence and assiduity, and by a more general observance of order and discipline on the part of the students. Of the 390 who attended lectures in the session just closed, 59 belonged to the Established Church, 16 were Roman Catholics, 233 Presbyterians, 25 Methodists, 2 Independents, and 55 various. Of the 111 who entered during the year, 20 were members of the Established Church, 5 Roman Catholics, 63 Presbyterians, 1 Methodist, 1 Independent, and 22 various. The number of medical students during the year was 181, against 174 in the preceding year. Dr. Henry bears his "strong testimony" to "the spirit of harmony, co-operation, and goodwill that pervades the whole college," and "it affords him the utmost satisfaction to bear record that no instance of religious dissension has ever come under his notice." The report concludes by urging the claims of the Queen's University to representation in Parliament.

THE ENGLISH AND SCOTCH MIDDLE CLASSES.—Mr. Fearon, in his report on Scotch secondary education, remarks that such difficulties as those which often beset the promoters of English secondary education and primary schools—viz., that employers will not mix with the employed; that the man of £500 a year looks down on the man of £80 or £100 a year; that the "gentle" refuse to use the same school as the "respectable;" while the "respectable" dislike to associate with the "humble classes," &c.—appear to be much less prominent and troublesome in Scotland. "A certain amount of this feeling is no doubt now growing up in Glasgow and other towns where fortunes are being made, and pure pride is becoming introduced; but, as a general rule, these invidious social grudges and discriminations appeared to be still wanting to Scotch education. The reasons for this happy condition are, of course, complex, and a stranger is liable to be led into error when he attempts the analysis of social phenomena. But it appeared to Mr. Fearon that sound middle-class education was both the cause and the effect of it. The wealth of the Scotch people has not yet outgrown their civilisation, as has been the case in England. "It seemed to me," Mr. Fearon writes, "that in Scotland I seldom met with those barbarians, those very uncultivated rich or substantial people, whom one sees every summer lounging at the Welsh and North Country seaside towns, or hurrying through the Continent. The average middle Scotchman has more humanity and refinement than the average middle Englishman. Education has been more generally diffused; riches have been less rapidly and largely accumulated; and, as a consequence, these circumstances have again reacted on education; have caused the middle classes to value it more generally than those in England do; and have prevented the creation of that gulf which exists between men of cultivation and the middle classes in England, the existence of which all thoughtful persons, who have had a superior education, must have felt and deplored."

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

"ARUNDELL V. JILLARD."

THE following case of breach of promise came before Mr. Baron Channel, at Bristol, on Monday:

The declaration stated that in 1867 the plaintiff and defendant agreed to marry at the then ensuing Christmas, that the plaintiff was always ready to marry, yet that the defendant had neglected to do so. There was a similar count stating that in 1867 they agreed to marry within a reasonable time; that a reasonable time had elapsed, and that the defendant had refused to fulfil his promise. The defendant had pleaded, first, that he did not make the promise; and, secondly, that he agreed between the plaintiff and himself that the contract should be rescinded, and that they rescinded the contract accordingly.

Mr. Coleridge, Q.C., and Mr. Pindar were counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr. Cole, Q.C., and Mr. L. P. were for the defendant. The plaintiff was Marie Georgiana Arundell, and the defendant Peard Jillard.

Mr. Coleridge opened the case. He did not mean to say, as it was sometimes said, that this was one of the worst cases that was ever brought into a court of law; but he did say that it was a very bad case, and when the jury had heard the circumstances he thought they would be also of that opinion. It was an action for breach of promise of marriage, and he thought the jury would consider that the engagement was broken off without the slightest shadow of foundation, and broken off, too, in such a way as to give the greatest and most lasting pain to the plaintiff in this action. The plaintiff was the daughter of a Mr. and Mrs. Arundell. Mr. Arundell was the son of Sir George Arundell, and some time ago, early in life, was a man of very good fortune—some £1500 or £1600 a year—living in great comfort, and he believed living in too great comfort, because he was careless about money, spent more than his income, and gradually got rid of a great deal of property. About the time of the engagement which was the subject matter in this case the income of Mr. Arundell had come down to between £200 and £300 a year. He was, in fact, in reduced circumstances, and being unable to meet the expenses occasioned by some members of his family, he had to go through the Bankruptcy Court. His liabilities in passing through the court were not heavy, about £400, and therefore it was not considered a bad case of bankruptcy. He had nothing to live upon but the money which was secured to Mr. and Mrs. Arundell, and their only daughter by a marriage settlement. Mr. and Mrs. Arundell had one child, the plaintiff in this action. She was a young lady, he believed, who was very pretty—certainly, as far as he had had the opportunity of reading the voluminous letters which had passed from her to the defendant, well educated; a lady of birth and education, and about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age. The defendant was a person in a good station of life; the son of an attorney very much respected, who had made a considerable fortune, he believed, in his business, and living at Pyle House, near Wincanton, in the enjoyment of the savings of his father's professional life, upon from £500 to £700 a year. He did not say that the defendant was a man of large wealth; but he had a moderate independence, living in a house which his father had left him. He believed that the defendant himself had been admitted as an attorney, but that he did not practise. In 1867 Mr. Arundell was in some distant part of the country, and Mrs. and Miss Arundell had come to reside for a time in Bristol. They found, however, that living in Bristol was an expensive matter for persons of their narrow means, and they went to live at Clevedon. At Clevedon the intimacy began between the plaintiff and the defendant. Neither the mother nor the daughter was in good health; and, the bankruptcy having just taken place, they were in a situation to excite the compassion and generous feelings of any man calling himself a gentleman, or any man having the feelings which every English gentleman, he trusted, would long continue to entertain. The defendant had formed the acquaintance of this lady and her daughter, and became, shortly, very intimate with them. He was a man of education—she was a lady of education—and their ages were suitable. He was living alone, and he felt, which some of the best of our sex do feel, that "it is not meet for man to live alone." There was nothing creditable to either party in the beginning and the progress of the engagement. Shortly after the engagement was made they took to writing letters, and a voluminous correspondence passed between them; but he should not read more letters than were absolutely necessary. The engagement was communicated to the families of both parties—to the mother of the plaintiff, and to the maiden aunt of the defendant, who was living with him. Inquiries were made as to the circumstances of the parties. It turned out that defendant was in the position which he (Mr. Coleridge) had described; but Mr. and Mrs. Arundell told him that, as far as their daughter was concerned, they were sorry to say that she could not have a penny of fortune so long as they lived; for whatever they had was secured by settlement, and upon the death of her father and mother it would come to her. The father put the sum roundly at £250 a year. It consisted of property in the Minorities, in London, and some landed property of no great extent in Buckinghamshire. The income from the property in the Minorities was put roughly at £200 a year, and the estate in Buckinghamshire at £50 a year. In the course of time some difficulties were raised by the want of business habits in the daughter; and these little difficulties gave the defendant an opportunity of seeing the family and their position in life. The plaintiff, who was a person of delicate health, went to Bournemouth; then came and stayed in the defendant's house, with the maiden aunt, for some time. Letters would be produced showing that the defendant wrote about the disposition of the plaintiff's property, and he interfered in a manner that nobody except one engaged to a girl would think of interfering. He should also show from letters that the defendant was also ardent for the time when, as he said, he should call her his, and he used the expression "our engagement" again and again in the letters, so that if his learned friend should be so ill-advised as to attempt to dispute the engagement, overwhelming evidence

would be supplied from the hands of the defendant himself. It was agreed that they should be married by Christmas, and it was arranged that the marriage should take place at Bristol. Christmas came, but there appeared no great anxiety on his part to fulfil the engagement. Shortly afterwards the question of the settlement came up. The defendant went to London for the purpose of seeing the lawyer of the Arundell family. He saw Mr. Cooper and made inquiries, and it turned out that instead of £250 a year, which Mr. Arundell had stated roughly as the amount of property which would come to her, it could not be put above £180 or £190 a year. This produced a wonderful revolution in the ardent feelings of the defendant; and he would read one letter as a model of others that were sent. He was an attorney; but attorneys, like other people, fell in love, and had to write lawyers' letters too. So they would see a singular union of law and love in these letters. One part was devoted to law and the other to love. The law was kept separate from the love, and the love from the law. Miss Arundell, who felt naturally uneasy, wrote a letter, and this was followed by another from the defendant, who made the most direct, and he must say coarse, attack upon the character of the father. He said that he had been totally misled, that the father knew what he was about, and that the father misled him altogether as to the circumstances of the daughter, and as to one of the grounds upon which the engagement was to proceed. It was very natural that any woman, on hearing her father called a rascal, should feel aggrieved. The result was that the engagement was broken off, and he was sorry to say, that it had been followed by the most serious consequences to the health, and he was almost afraid to say the life, of the young lady. The jury would have before them medical men who would state what her present condition was. The learned counsel then read seven or eight of the defendant's letters addressed to his "darling pet," &c. There was little or nothing in them to excite laughter. His Lordship (interposing) asked if it was quite hopeless to come to some arrangement before they went further into the case. The letters were full of the strongest affection.

After a consultation, the suggestion of his Lordship was adopted, and a verdict for £150 damages was taken. Mr. Coleridge (for the plaintiff) intimating that the action had not been brought for the sake of recovering money, but in order to vindicate the young lady's character; and Mr. Cole (for the defendant) declaring that no imputation whatever rested either upon the plaintiff or upon her father.

JUSTICES' JUSTICE AND MERCY.

HERE is a case of Justices' justice, reported in the *Shropshire News*:

"A little boy named John Darlington pleaded guilty (at the Petty Sessions, before E. B. Boulton, Esq.) to riding and falling asleep in his cart, in the parish of Moreton Corbet. Mr. Deakin, of Soullton Hall, rose and addressed the magistrate on behalf of the poor boy, stating that he believed that the boy's father had met with an accident and broke his leg; and ever since then the little boy had done the greater part of his father's work, travelling a great many miles every day with loads of stone, and working hard early and late, and no doubt he felt much tired this hot weather, and he hoped the magistrate would deal leniently with the case. In answer to the magistrate, the little boy said it was about two o'clock in the afternoon when he was caught asleep in the cart, and he had been about sixteen miles that morning. Mr. Boulton, after explaining to the boy the consequences which might result from negligence of the kind, ordered him to pay a fine of 5s., and 7s. 4d. costs!"

The three "notes of astonishment" appended to the account are, doubtless, intended by the reporter as an expression of his indignation at the merciless decision, a feeling which will probably be shared by most of our readers.

At the Chester Police Court, last Saturday, before the Mayor, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Smith, a poor woman, named Sarah Jones, appeared on a summons charging her with "stealing a quantity of wheat," the property of Mr. Roberts, farmer. Mr. Churton, solicitor, appeared for complainant, who stated that on the 29th ult. he saw the prisoner picking up wheat at the bottom of a field from which they were "carrying" the crop. He sent a boy to her, but she did not go away. He went down to her himself, and took from her a handful of wheat, and she went away. Mr. Johnson: Had the field been cleared? Roberts: Not quite. We were just finishing taking away the "rakings." Mr. Johnson: Was there any wheat except on the ground where she was? Roberts: No. It had been raked there. But I have had such a great deal of damage, I want to make an example. Defendant: Mr. Roberts, didn't I tell you I was very sorry? I thought there was no harm. Roberts: Yes, you did; but I want to make an example of some one. The Mayor (to defendant). What have you to say? Defendant: Well, Gentlemen, I didn't think I was doing any harm. I was going home, and I thought I would pick up a few ears to please the children. I told Mr. Roberts I was very sorry, and gave him the corn when he said it wasn't allowed. I am very sorry. The Mayor, after consulting with Mr. Smith and the clerk (Mr. Sharp): You must go to goal for seven days. Mr. Johnson, the magistrate, throwing up his hands: "I won't be a party to that. Seven days! All the papers in the country will be down upon us." The defendant turned very pale, and, bursting into tears, said, "Seven days for that! Don't send me to goal from my four poor children, and one sucking at the breast." The clerk, to Mr. Johnson: There is no other way of putting this sort of thing down. There are many complaints. Mr. Churton said: While Mr. Roberts wished for some punishment, he did not ask for so much as that. After a further consultation between the magistrates, the Mayor said: You must pay a fine of 5s. 6d. damages, and costs (8s.), or go to goal for three days. The woman was then removed and ultimately sent to goal, as the money was not forthcoming.

POLICE.

AN IMPUDENT THIEF.—Arthur Williams, described as a mariner, was brought up on remand on the charge of breaking into Hahn's private

hotel, America-square, Minorities, and stealing therein two feather beds, three feather pillows, and a number of other articles. Between nine and ten o'clock on the night of July 29, Anthony Monger, a City detective, saw the prisoner lurking about Gould-square, and dis-appear at the back of Hahn's Hotel. Thinking his conduct suspicious, he gave some instructions to an officer in uniform (753) and went to the station for further assistance. On his return he sent the officers he had brought with him to the back of the hotel, while he himself went to the front entrance. In the passage inside the hotel he found the prisoner struggling with Constable 753, and close to them were two large bundles, which the prisoner had made up and evidently intended to carry away. When charged with breaking into the hotel he shammed being drunk, and said he had merely come in for a glass of grog. Next day he was brought before Sir Robert W. Carden for examination, and it was then stated that on the day before the apprehension of the prisoner two more robberies had been committed in the same hotel. On the second examination it appeared that the prisoner, in consequence of a statement made by Banyard, a detective officer, that he had known him as a "duffer," or vendor of sham jewellery, had written to the registrar-general of shipping giving a history of his previous life, and requesting that "out of humanity and justice, and the profession he belonged to, some one might be sent to identify him." In conclusion, he said, "I hope you will not let me go to leeward, as I have not disgraced the colour of my cloth." Mr. Taylor, from the registry-office for shipping, produced the above letter, and, referring to one of the statements contained in it, said that the prisoner had deserted from his ship at Sydney, and had been committed to prison for a robbery. Prisoner: That is false; I ran away to my brother, who has a sheep station 300 miles up the country. Banyard was recalled, and said he had known the prisoner eighteen or twenty years ago, but he had not seen him since. Prisoner: You said you had known me twenty years. Mr. Oke the chief clerk, said he had not taken down that statement. Prisoner: It is necessary he should be made an example of for the good of the public. Ought he not to be ashamed of himself? A young woman, residing at Hahn's Hotel, here stepped forward and accused the prisoner of stealing about £30 worth of clothing belonging to her. The prisoner denied committing the robbery, and said that, even if he had stolen the clothes, he could not wear them. In an impudent tone he then asked the young woman if she had his money, adding that his purse had been stolen, and that the police said they had not got it. At this stage the Lord Mayor informed the prisoner that he would be again remanded. The prisoner: That is very un-English, to punish a man first and try him afterwards. Serjeant Cox, 45 K, said he knew the prisoner as James Conder. On the 8th of last month he apprehended him for stealing £12 worth of clothes belonging to three sailors. He was committed to the Middlesex Sessions, and made a speech of an hour's length to the jury, who, after deliberating for two hours, acquitted him. Since then he had been sentenced to seven days' imprisonment at the Thames Police Court. Monger: I believe he was complimented by the presiding Judge on the way in which he defended himself. Prisoner: I hope as the sergeant has made such a plausible story he will tell you that I was the person robbed. Monger: He (prisoner) has a pair of stolen boots on now. The Lord Mayor (addressing the prisoner): I believe you will go on till you get penal servitude. Prisoner: My Lord, I have done nothing criminal except getting drunk. The Lord Mayor: You must go to prison for three months with hard labour. The prisoner appeared to be greatly astonished at the sentence, and, turning round to Serjeant Cox, said, amid much laughter, "You blackguard, you will never get an Inspectorship." He was then removed from the dock.

THE CASE OF ALLEGED CHILD-STEALING.—The alleged case of child-stealing, in which a German and his wife were charged with unlawful possession of a little girl named Chard, was again the subject of investigation, on Monday, at the Marlborough-street Police Court. The mother was produced, and her statement was to the effect that one evening in July, 1864, she took her daughter into a public-house where the prisoners were. She had two or three glasses of beer with them, and they expressed a wish that the child belonged to them. She left the house for about a quarter of an hour, and on her return the prisoners and the child had gone. She denied having given her consent to their taking possession of her daughter. In the course of the proceedings it was remarked that, while in her adopted home the little girl had been well fed and nicely dressed, her good clothes had been taken away since her return to her father, and shabby attire substituted. The magistrate, who expressed his regret that the child had been discovered, said he could not withhold the case from the notice of a higher court. He would, however, take the personal recognisances of the prisoners for their appearance at the sessions.

MORE YOUNG THIEVES CAUGHT.—At South-wark, Alfred Whitlock, aged sixteen, brother to a lad called "Captain Plummy," the leader of a gang of desperate young thieves, who was sentenced to eight years' penal servitude at the last Surrey Sessions for highway robbery; and Patrick Halpin, seventeen, were placed at the bar charged with stealing a purse, containing 12s. 6d., from Phoebe McKenzie. The prosecutrix, a very old woman, residing in Stevens's-court, Bermondsey-street, said that, about a quarter to nine at night, she was passing along the street, and when between a baker's and a cheese-monger's she was surrounded by three young fellows, who hustled her about in a shameful manner and nearly pushed her into the road, and ran away. A constable came up, and, tapping her on the shoulder, asked her if she had lost anything. She immediately put her hand in her pocket, and found that it had been cut, and that her purse, containing from 12s. to 14s., was gone. She identified Whitlock as the one who pushed her and lifted her dress. In answer to the magistrate, witness said that her purse and contents were safe in her pocket a few minutes previous, when she left the baker's shop. A police constable said he was on duty at Star-

corner when he was informed that an old lady had been robbed in Bermondsey-street. He rushed to the spot, and saw the prisoners and another running away. He caught hold of the prisoners and took them back, when he asked the prosecutrix what she had lost. She replied that her purse and 12s. or 14s. were gone. She then gave the prisoners into custody, but the other one escaped. The prisoners pleaded guilty to the charge. The constable informed the magistrate that the prisoners were the remnant of a gang of desperate young thieves infesting the Borough. Whitlock's brother and five of his companions were sentenced to eight years' penal servitude at the last Surrey Sessions for highway robbery. He did not think either of the prisoners had been convicted. The magistrate sentenced each of them to six months' hard labour.

A SMART RAP TO THE POLICE.—In a case heard at the Westminster Police Court, on Tuesday, another addition was made to the magisterial censures which have lately fallen on the police. A waterman's apprentice was charged by a sergeant in the B division with drunkenness and disorderly conduct; but he proved not only that the accusation was unfounded but that the sergeant had used unnecessary violence in taking him to prison, and, to use the words of the magistrate, had been "untruthful in the witness-box." Mr. Selfe added that he trusted he should not see the sergeant's face again, and intimated that he was not a suitable person to remain in the police. In another case under investigation at Clerkenwell it has been shown that an innocent man was, a short time ago, convicted of stealing sheep on the evidence of three policemen and sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

LIBEL.—"M'KENNA V. USBORNE."—An important action for libel, which has occupied several days at the Cork Assizes, was on Tuesday brought to a conclusion. Some time ago Mr. T. M. Osborne, a large shareholder in the National Bank of Ireland, wrote a letter to the directors, charging Sir Joseph M'Kenna, M.P., the manager, with being connected with various disreputable speculations, and adding that the fact of his being so was damaging to the interests of the bank. Sir Joseph, who represents Youghal in the present Parliament, brought an action for libel, laying his damages at £20,000. Mr. Osborne pleaded that the letter was a privileged communication; but the contention of the plaintiff was that it was dictated by personal hatred, and intended to revenge a refusal on his part to resort to dishonest means during the money panic in order to keep up the price of bank shares. The case has terminated with a verdict for the defendant.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—M. BROWNE Esq., clerk in holy orders. BANKRUPTS.—R. WOOD, Renshaw-street, Wandsworth-road, carpenter.—F. TUBBS, Archer-street, Westbourne-grove, iron-monger.—W. J. LAMBERT, Sanbury, wheelwright.—H. CRUDDE, Shepherd's-market, Mayfair, tailor.—G. DICKSON, Carter-lane, Doctor's-common, tailor.—E. COLEMAN, Barnsbury, M. MORTON, Brickley, licensed victualler.—A. JONES, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, grocer.—J. DUNLOP and J. BUTLER, Dover, coal merchants.—S. E. COUSINS, Queen's-road, Peckham.—R. MORTON, Chiswick, Kentish Town, licensed victualler.—J. RYLAND, White Lion-street, Chelsea, upholsterer.—A. RYLAND, Bernandsey-street, leather-dresser.—W. L. HUR-T, Eastbourne, wine merchant.—R. SMYTH, Dover, ironfounder.—W. BULL, Dockhead, butcher.—J. GUNTER, Brill, butcher.—J. B. WEEKS, Deptford.—G. LAMBERT, Commercial-road, Lambeth, commercial clerk.—T. W. MOORE, Southwark, Assistant Paymaster in the Navy.—W. BOWER, Radnor-terrace, Lambeth.—M. A. BATHURST, Hastings, lodging-house keeper.—R. L. WATSON, Great Winchester-street, buildings, City, general merchant.—W. B. BAKER, Talbot-road, Westbourne Park.—W. BASTFIELD, Cradley-heat, brickmaker.—S. BANNISTER, Leominster, full-monger.—H. HEBB, Loughborough, innkeeper.—T. DOVEY, Clifton, lodging-house keeper.—H. LODGE, Rutherford, dealer in iron.—J. M. YERKS, Fishponds, cabinet-maker.—A. LAMB, Hailax, Birmingham.—T. MORRAN, Bristol, accountant.—A. R. BAKER, Bristol.—H. ROSE, Hulme, furniture-dealer.—W. DALES, Leeds.—J. BATHURST, Sheffield, shopkeeper.—E. PARKER, Leeds.—J. YANES, Airedale, innkeeper.—K. EDDY, Colwick, Cornwall, mason.—E. EDWARDS, Tynemouth, collier.—J. H. HOLT, Walsall, licensed victualler.—J. GUNSTONE, Bradford, Whitehite, cordwainer.—T. BRADY, Appleford, master mariner.—J. SUMMERS, Littleton, Bag House, Northumberland, farmer's hind.—H. CRIDLAND, York-road, Battersea, plasterer.—J. WINGOTT, West Bromwich, retail trader.—R. FUSSELL, Little Sutton, butcher.—P. NUGENT, Birkenhead, cowkeeper.—R. and M. HARRISON, Framers, contractors.—G. GALLNER, Brighton, journeyman baker.—H. WATKINS, Selley, Sussex, glazier.—J. CHAPMAN, Wootton, blacksmith.—W. KIRK, Market Weighton, auctioneer.—W. R. LODGE, Great Yarmouth.—J. BOND, Great Yarmouth.—J. GILBERT, Edinburgh, watchmaker and jeweller.—G. McLOUGHLIN, Whitburn, clothier.—A. WYLLIE, Dundee, shoemaker.—M. MACKINTOSH, Kingussie, baker and grocer.—F. H. G. WATKINS and CO., Aberdeen, manufacturers.

TUESDAY, AUG. 11.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—H. HUGHES, Sittingbourne, Kent, beer retailer.—J. E. WALKER, Manchester, wine merchant.—H. E. CARPENTER, Manchester, licensed victualler. BANKRUPTS.—J. ADRIEN, Great Newport-street, coal merchant.—T. DRAPER, Baywater, journeyman coachman.—T. BRIGHT, Broad-street-hill, packing-case maker.—H. JENNELL, Camden Town, City, agent and manufacturer.—J. W. MURTON, Old Ford-road, butcher.—G. L. HALL, St. John's Wood, artist.—J. KENT, Gainsborough-street, Royal Mint-street, carman.—A. BRADBURY, High Holborn, engraving artist.—J. T. HARRISON, Laurence Pountney-place, estate agent.—J. WALSH, Commercial-road, Old Kent-road.—C. HARRIS, Nelson-square, Bermondsey, collar-maker.—G. D. WISE, West Brompton, cornchandler.—J. J. G. CHOLMONDELEY, Kentish Town.—A. WOOD, Shyham, coal merchant.—G. WOODHAMS, Thatcham New Town, Berkshire.—G. CUMPT, Ironmonger-lane, City, ladies' collar manufacturer.—A. T. LABATT, Plumstead, clerk in holy orders.—W. J. T. MOLE, St. Neots watchmaker.—A. RUSHWORTH, West Ham, milliner.—I. KERRIDGE, Wandsworth-road, builder.—G. SAYLE, Camden Town, cheese-monger.—J. G. PHILLIPS, New Kent-road, Birmingham, leather-seller.—W. CHARLES, Aston-juxta-Birmingham, oil merchant.—W. JONES and E. SUTTON, Boxwich, chartermasters.—E. DAGGER, Butley, grocer.—W. BRUNT, Derby, draper.—H. GREEN, Cardiff, builder.—J. BENSON and J. C. BIRT, Mountain, paper manufacturers.—J. B. MUSCHAMP, Leeds, cloth merchant.—T. GREGORY, Alfreton, building.—R. SMITH, Wigan, bookbinder.—R. EATON, Salford, Bourdaley, E. TAYLOR, Hancote, spinster.—J. GEORGE, Orleton, carpenter.—E. OWEN, Wrexham, butcher.—C. RODGERS, Ryde, Isle of Wight, poultryer.—S. COOKE, Evesham, upholsterer.—J. FOX, Clarks-ough, newsgate.—W. RIGTING, West Bromwich, plumber.—J. MARSTON, Kidderminster.—R. J. RAILTON, Malmesbury, printer.—H. BROWN, Liverpool, boarding-house keeper.—E. SIMPSON, Liverpool.—E. HALLAM, Shille, collier.—E. LADIMER, Swansea, shipbroker.—A. MORRIS, Aberdare, collier.—W. VALLANCE, Barnsley, collier.—T. DUFFIELD, Gressley, collier.—A. AYER, Coleraine, farmer.—W. SMITH, Hereford, painter.—A. E. EVISON and J. CARTER, jms., Horsham, soda-water manufacturers.—D. GOODMAN, Yatebury, watchmaker.—G. CREWSON, Liverpool, iron merchant.—J. BROWN, Lo ghorough gunmaker.—J. TOLLER, St. ewe, innkeeper.—W. JOHNSON, Woodford-am-Memba, wheelwright.—J. M. STEEL, Wigan, bookkeeper.—W. WAKE, Middleborough.—W. T. KANDALL, Rensgale, builder.—M. H. FINNEY, Biskewell.—W. MULLINER, Wandsworth, builder's foreman. SLUTCH REQUISITIONS.—A. HENRY, Glasgow, wood merchant.—W. ALLAN, Newton-le-ear, iron merchant.—A. GIERKE and CO., Greenwich, clothiers.—D. STEWART and J. FLEMING, Dundee, ironmongers.—W. GOWEN, Glasgow, insurance agent.—E. CAMERON, Aberdeen, bookseller.—L. M'BRAIN, Liverpool, merchant.—W. SEWARD, Greenwich, coal tugboat.

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